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[VOL. I.

Original and Selected Articles.

THE MATERIA MEDICA OF THE EUCALYPTUS.

*A Paper read before the Medical Society of Victoria by JOSEPH BOSISTO, M.P.,
Examiner in Materia Medica at the College of Pharmacy.*

IT is not often that I have the honour of addressing the Medical Society of Victoria on matters pertaining to the medicinal products of our eucalypti indigenous vegetation, and I need hardly say that it affords me much pleasure to be with you to-night, on the invitation of my esteemed friend, Dr. Neild, who has rightly been termed one of the buttresses of the profession in this country.

At the last meeting of this Society a case was cited and commented upon, relating to a supposed case of poisoning by an article called "Extract of Eucalyptus," which, being a nostrum and not an open preparation, I prefer to leave alone. In order, however, that members of the medical profession may fully understand the therapeutic character of this, our chief vegetation, I have undertaken to-night to set before them the *Materia Medica* of the Eucalypti, based on the results of over thirty-five years of practical research and experience.

History.—This genus, of the natural order of Myrtaceæ, is an ancient Australian vegetation. River beds of great antiquity have been met with, at depths varying from 100 to 200 feet and even deeper, in various alluvial gold mining districts of Victoria, revealing occasionally massive timber trees without any sign of decay, belonging to the family of the Eucalyptus, chiefly those of the red gum (*rostrata*) and the iron bark (*leucoxylon*) species. Some species growing at the present day on the alluvial flats, mountainous ranges, and in the valleys, attain a prodigious size, both as to girth and height, bespeaking their longevity, possibly contemporaneous with the Cedars of Lebanon.

Botanical Characters.—The word "eucalyptus"—from *eu*, "well," and *kalypto*, "to cover"—is aptly chosen to distinguish this splendid family of plants from all others. This characteristic is observable in the limb of the calyx, completely covering the flower before expansion; and during its gradual development, the operculum, or lid, is uplifted in shape like an extinguisher, which falls off immediately the flower becomes matured. The chief characters of all eucalypts are in the firmness of the calyx, the absence of petals, the numerous rows of stamens inserted close to the edge of the calyx tube, the stamens being nearly always fertile, and also the many form variations of the anthers in the different species. This systematic arrangement was made by the late venerable Bentham, and acquiesced in by our Government botanist, Baron von Mueller, as being the wisest to adopt.

Physical Characters.—All eucalypts cast their bark annually, the leaves are evergreen; the petiole is half twisted, so that the plane of each leaf is parallel to the axis of the tree, allowing thereby free action on both sides to sunlight and to the air currents. Translucent oil cells abound in all the leaves, and in many species the cells are visible to the naked eye; the leaves also have stomata on each side, and the oil cells run through. The roots are very dispersive, and have rootlets in great abundance.

Chemical Constituents are not only those usually met with in all ligneous vegetation, but contain also a volatile otto or oil, varying in composition in some species; a volatile acid, termed eucalyptic acid; a bitter principle, in an amorphous condition, strongly hygroscopic, termed eucalyptene; a gum resin, varying in kino or catechuic characteristics. The volatile oil is met with only in the leaves and the fruit vessels; the other principles in all parts of the tree.

Therapeutic Inquiry and Errors.—It must always be borne in mind, in any inquiry into the therapeutics of this vegetation, that there are about 150 species, and as in the case of the genus cinchona, in which only a third of its varieties supply the cinchona barks of commerce, and each variety differs in quantity of the alkaloids, and in their chemical composition, so in like manner the eucalypti vary in active principles, especially in essential volatile ottos. Owing to the free growth and pretty leaf appearance of the *eucalyptus globulus* (blue gum) during the first three years of its growth, together with its having become acclimatised in Europe and other parts of the world, this species has been referred to by writers and medical men as the only species worthy of notice; in fact, they have almost ignored the consideration of any other variety. This error has led to much confusion; hence in many medical and other scientific journals of those countries any therapeutic or sanative result recorded is generally credited to *eucalyptus globulus*, when, as is well known to many in Victoria, some other variety was under consideration. In like manner, we may refer to the *eucalyptus nostrums*: no matter how prepared or of what composition, they are sure to be stated to be obtained from the "*eucalyptus globulus*."

Chief Medicinal Species.—For supplying the essential oils of commerce—the *amyclalina*, *globulus*, and *oleosa*; the volatile acid—*rostrata* and *globulus*; the bitter principle—*globulus* and *stuartiana*; the kino and catechu resins *obliqua*, *leucoxylon*, *marginata*, and *rostrata*. The result of long observation and experiment is that the volatile element is the base of all the products and educts just mentioned, and for the following reason: That those species which are great in the production of oil supply it (by the peculiar leaf formation) vigorously to the atmosphere, allowing but little time for the production of substances, such as resins and vegetable acids, which require the absorption of oxygen by the leaf to form them. On the other hand, those species less vigorous in oil production allow time for the purpose, hence they become well stored with resin and acid, both in the wood and in the bark.

The Products and their Medicinal Uses.—Eucalyptic acid is obtained by fractional distillation of the mother liquor of any of the eucalypts. It is persistent in aroma, and has been known to retain its identity after exposure to the air for many years. It is supposed that the fact of the red gum timber containing this acid abundantly is the reason of its not being attacked by the "*Teredo navalis*," when used for piles in the erection of sea jetties. It is a powerful antiseptic.

The Gum Resins are generally collected from many species; some supply a ruby-coloured kino (as per sample), others again that of catechu—the former

abounding in astringency, and the latter in a lesser degree; none approach in value for medicinal uses the inspissated juice of the rostrata of Victoria. This is a delicate mucilaginous astringent in combination with tonic properties, employed with benefit in all affections of the mucous membrane of the stomach and bowels, and is a reliable remedy in the treatment of chronic dysentery and diarrhoea. As a topical astringent for the uvula and tonsils, either in the form of a gargle, syrup, or lozenge, it forms a useful remedy. Soluble in alcohol, cold or boiling water.

Incompatibles.—The alkalies and metallic salts.

Pharmaceutical Preparations. Apart from the essential ottos are the following:—*Succus rostratæ*, the inspissated juice of the tree, is a safer and more effective remedy than either kino or catechu. Squire speaks of it as a gum adhering with great pertinacity to the mucous surfaces, and mild in astringency. *Dose*—One to two fluid drachms.

Syrupus Eucalypti Rostrati.—An agreeable form for administering, and mild in character.

Succus Eucalypti Globuli Laminæ. Freshly expressed from the lamina of the leaf, is a tonic, antiperiodic and antiseptic, containing the active principle in combination, employed in intermittent and remittent fevers, and in all affections of the respiratory organs; in purulent catarrhal affections of the urethra and vagina when in dilution.

Eucalyptene.—The tonic or bitter principle, employed in pill form, in doses of two to three grains.

Liquor Eucalypti Globuli.—The eucalyptene in a liquid condition; generally used in this condition on account of its liability to attract moisture; employed in cases of ague and dengue fever, in doses of one drachm in mucilage or other convenient vehicle.

Essential Oils.—We now come to the essential ottos of the eucalyptus. I have already mentioned the leading species producing oils in general use; although others are equally important, none are superior. Distance from population, and the difficulties of transit, at present prevent the employment of many kinds. In a paper read before the Royal Society of Victoria, in 1876, I fully entered into the question of the sanative effect of the eucalyptus forests of Australia upon climate. The paper is published in the Society's transactions of that year. The evidences and arguments I need not repeat here, but confine myself—first, to the chemical composition of the oils; second, to their therapeutical effect and mode of administration.

Chemical Composition.—Although there exists a great diversity of odour in the several eucalyptus oils, yet in chemical composition they have but two headings or divisions, viz., hydrocarbons of the terpene group, and compounds containing oxygen approximating to camphor, such as the cymol, thymol, terpinol. It is highly probable that many of the differently-named constituents are identical with each other; however, a near chemical relationship exists.

The formula $C_5 H_8$ —that is, five atoms of carbon and four of hydrogen—is the most simple form of union. In *oleum terebinthæ* we have its multiple thus— $C_{10} H_8$ or $C_{20} H_{16}$; an equally similar formula applies to many of our eucalyptus oils; others again containing oxygen include those having a strong camphoraceous odour, hence the formula $C_{20} H_{16} O$. are oxyhydrocarbons. Although this expresses the relative proportions of the elements, yet it is in their molecular arrangement, or binding sphere, or method of union, wherein lies the difference in aroma and character. A striking example of this fact is noticeable in *ess. limonis* and *oleum terebinthæ*, both being similar in formula.

Therapeutical Action.—In considering the medicinal effect of the oils of the eucalyptus, it must be remembered that we are dealing with bodies simply in elementary formula, and consequently wide apart from those complex compounds of the type of the well-known energetic poisons.

The hydrocarbon character of the eucalyptus oils, together with their low specific gravity, varying from 0·880 to 0·911, points to their rapid diffusibility when taken internally. Analogous compounds, such as camphor, alcohol, and conia, afford the key to their action. The immediate effect of each of the bodies just named is well known to be on the cerebro-spinal nervous system; any one of these taken in large doses produces more or less complete flaccidity of the muscular system, and ultimately produces a state of inebriation and unconsciousness; a similar result follows extreme doses of eucalyptus oil. Medical scientists report that a small dose promotes appetite; a large one destroys it. In stronger doses of 10 to 20 minims it first accelerates the pulse, produces pleasant general excitement (shown by irresistible desire for moving about) and a feeling of buoyancy and strength. Intoxicating in very large doses, but, unlike alcohol or opium, the effects are not followed by torpor, but produce a general calmness and soothing sleep. The antidote for an overdose is also alike in character viz., a strong cup of coffee without milk or sugar, which speedily removes any alarming symptoms. Now, these results, as compared with the medicinal action of conium maculatum, are very striking—an overdose of this drug leaves the intelligence and sensory system intact, while it paralyses the motor system; in like manner overdoses of eucalyptus produce similar results. The bitterness left on the palate after taking eucalyptus oil is evidently due to a principle isomeric with the oil, not separable. It probably is the active agent so often referred to by medical writers when urging the anti-periodic properties of the oil.

Eucalyptol is the more volatile liquid, obtained from any one of the three essential ottos previously mentioned. It is separated by rectification with caustic potash and fused calcium chloride, boiling evenly at 317 Fahr. the product of eucalyptol in quantity being about two per centum, represented by C₁₀H₁₆O; it is a homologue of camphor, and appears to be two steps higher in the series; its vapour mixed with air is fresh, agreeable when inhaled, and is employed as a therapeutic agent in diphtheritic and bronchial affections, in the form of vapour. About one teaspoonful with half a pint of boiling water is placed in the inhaler.

Oil of Eucalyptus, in general use, is in chief obtained from the amygdalina odorata species, and not from the "globulus," being more abundant, much cheaper, and containing the full remedial properties assigned to the volatile product of this vegetation. It is very fluid, almost devoid of colour, and having an aroma persistent and camphoraceous; is slightly soluble in water, but completely so in alcohol, oils, fats, and paraffin. It is not caustic, like carbolic acid, nor does it produce much irritation of the skin, unless applied with extra friction; in that case the application of an emollient will speedily relieve. It is very destructive to low organic growth. It is a powerful anti-septic, and by some practitioners stated to be more than three times as strong as carbolic acid in preventing the development of bacteria. Its uses are manifold. The *Lancet*, *Medical Times*, and numerous other medical and scientific journals frequently record them. In "Martindale and Westcott's Extra Pharmacopœia, 1884" is furnished a full account, together with formulae for its employment, and attached to this paper will be found a full statement of the eucalyptus preparations, together with doses. Adulterations are frequent. Eucalyptus oil pure is colourless, or nearly so; leaves no stain on the most delicate fabric.

I have now endeavoured to state the *materia medica* of the eucalyptus, a vegetation full of healthy and healing influences unknown to the medical profession twenty-five years ago. Since that time it has received much attention, and now occupies the position of favourable comment in the leading medical journals of the day.

The chemistry of pharmacy is a subject of full interest, and I am gratified at its position in Victoria. No one can visit the College of Pharmacy in Swanston-street without being assured that whilst the founders of pharmaceutical education in this country are gradually resting from their labours, they are striving to raise up educated and well-trained successors.

The Government, fully alive to the advantages of pharmaceutical education, deal out, with no parsimonious hand, aid sufficient to warrant the hope that this department of science in this country will remain the faithful and serviceable handmaid to the medical profession.

FORMULÆ.—OL. EUCLYPTI.

Tonic, stimulant, and antiseptic. A small dose promotes appetite. In stronger doses of 10 to 20 minims, it first accelerates the pulse, produces pleasant general excitement, and a feeling of buoyancy and strength. Intoxicating in very large doses, but, unlike alcohol or opium, the effects are not followed by torpor, but by general calmness and soothing sleep. A strong cup of coffee will at once remove any unpleasantness arising from an overdose.

In cases of rheumatism, lumbago, sciatica, chronic hepatitis, asthma, bronchitis, and sprains, requiring a strong liniment—

Ol. Eucalypt.	$\frac{3}{4}$ iv.	
Vaseline	$\frac{3}{4}$ ij.	Misce.

For throat and other painful affections requiring a mild liniment—

Ol. Eucalypt.	$\frac{3}{4}$ iij.	
Ol. Olivæ	$\frac{3}{4}$ j.	Misce.

The addition of ol. olivæ prevents irritation of the skin. The vaseline should be warmed before mixing.

For a Soothing and Steady Action.—Shake well together a tablespoonful of the oil with half a pint of warm water; saturate a cloth with this, and apply over the painful part—repeating, if necessary, in half-an-hour.

This oil is a thorough deodorant and disinfectant, and an antiseptic of great power. A few drops sprinkled on a cloth and suspended in a sick-room render the air refreshing; and for disinfecting and deodorising, a tablespoonful of the oil added to two or three pounds weight of sawdust, well mixed and distributed, will speedily produce a purifying effect.

For Internal Use.—For coughs, asthmatic and throat affections—Five-drop doses on loaf-sugar occasionally.

If stronger doses are required, the following form may be prescribed—

Ol. Eucalypt.	$\frac{3}{4}$ j.	
Pulv. Gum Acacie	$\frac{3}{4}$ iij.	
Saccharum	$\frac{3}{4}$ ss.	
Aq. Cinnamon add	$\frac{3}{4}$ iv.	Misce.
Dose— $\frac{3}{4}$ ss. for an adult every four or six hours. Or,		
Ol. Eucalypt.	$\frac{3}{4}$ j.	
Infus. Lini.	$\frac{3}{4}$ ii.j.ss.	
Syrupus	$\frac{3}{4}$ ss.	Misce.
Dose—Ut supra.		

Anthelmintic—By enema 30 to 60 minims of the oil in mucilage of starch.

SUCCUS EUCALYPTI GLOBULI LAMINE.

Tonic, antiperiodic, and antiseptic.—An important remedial agent in intermittent and remittent fevers; also successfully employed in affections of the respiratory organs—bronchitis, asthma, ephysema, whooping cough—relieving fits of coughing, and allaying the irritation of the bronchi by promoting expectoration. Completely soluble in water. Dose— $\frac{5}{j}$. with the addition of a little syrup. Employed also in purulent catarrhal affections of the urethra and vagina in dilution; and as an antiseptic in dressing wounds.

SUCCUS EUCALYPTI ROSTRATE.

The inspissated juice of the red gum tree of Victoria; possesses a delicate mucilaginous astringent, and is a safer and more effective remedy than either kino or catechu. Dose—Adult, one fluid drachm; generally in combination with conf. arom.

SYRUPUS ROSTRATÆ.

Prepared from the inspissated juice of the red gum tree of Victoria.—A delicate mucilaginous astringent, with tonic properties. Employed in affections of the mucous membrane of the stomach and bowels, and in the treatment of chronic dysentery and diarrhoea. As a topical astringent in relaxation of the uvula and tonsils, either in the form of a gargle, syrup, or lozenge. Soluble in alcohol, cold or boiling water. Incompatibles—The alkalies and the metallic salts.

EUCALYPTOL. $C_{12}H_{20}O$. (Vapour density 6.22.)

From Eucalyptus Globulus.—This volatile body is a homologue of camphor, and appears to be two steps higher in the series. Its vapour, mixed with air, is agreeable when inhaled, and is employed as a therapeutic agent in bronchial and diphtheritic affections. Quantity employed—From half to one teaspoonful, with half a pint of hot water in the inhaler.

For Internal Use.—May be employed in the same manner and for similar purposes as the ol. eucalypti, but is more volatile. Dose—Five to ten minims.

EUCALYPTENE.

From Eucalyptus Globulus.—The tonic or bitter principle in an amorphous condition; employed in low fevers, in doses of one to three grains in pill form.

LIQUOR EUCALYPTI GLOBULI.

Remedy for Ague, Intermittent and Remittent Fevers.—Dose for ague and dengue fever—30 to 60 minims in half a wineglassful of water, every two or three hours during the paroxysms of ague. As a general tonic, 20 to 30 minims, in wine or water, three times a day. Incompatibles—The mineral salts.

UNG. EUCALYPTI VIRIDIS.

Antiseptic emollient; rapidly sets up a healthy action.

At the last meeting of the Beekeepers' Society in Dresden Herr Bley, a pharmacist, brought forward the subject of poisonous honey, which he said had been several times imported from Trebizonde (*Pharm. Zeit.*, 25th November). He attributed the noxious property to the growth of the *Datura Stramonium* in the district from which the honey was derived, and said that cases of illness, in one case followed by death, had been officially established. It was also alleged by Herr Bley, though it does not appear upon what grounds, that American honey has been found to contain poisonous ingredients, derived especially from gelsemium.

THE NEW PHARMACOPÆIA.

A Paper read at a meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia on 10th December, 1885, by C. R. BLACKETT, President of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, etc.

THE long expected new edition of the British Pharmacopœia has at last been published. As the alterations and additions claim the careful attention of pharmacists, I thought that a paper dealing with this important matter would be the means of assisting the members of our Pharmaceutical Society, many of whom are too busy to find time for critical examination and comparison. It will probably be some time before all the merits and demerits of this our new Pharmaceutical Directory will be given to the public. It is now twenty years since we had a new edition of the British Pharmacopœia, and many of you will remember that the first issue was found to be so full of errors that a second edition was published in 1867. A small supplement was given to the public, and called "additions" to the Pharamcopœia, in 1871. As it was then, so I think it is now, apparent that a great many of the errors which are manifest might have been avoided if a larger number of able and thoroughly practical pharmacists had been engaged upon the preparation of this work; for although in the preface the British Medical Council—composed of eminent and most learned men—do not fail to acknowledge their obligations to pharmacists, and inform us that Professors Redwood, Attfield, and Bentley acted as editors, it would have been much better if the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, in conjunction with the Scotch and Irish, had also been associated with the Medical Council. In the preparation of the French Codex and the United States Pharmacopœias this union of forces is the practice. However, the book is before us, and it is of no use to say more upon this subject. We can only hope that, when the next edition is undertaken, a new departure will be made. Taken as a whole, this Pharmacopœia gives evidence of careful work, and is a great improvement upon former ones. It would seem that a decennial publication would be better, as is the case in America. In the early period of official Pharmacopœias the publication was much more frequent. The first Pharmacopœia in England was issued in 1618, and another in 1622, then as follows:—1627, 1632, 1639, 1650, 1651, 1677, 1678, 1682, 1699, 1720, 1721, 1722, 1724, 1731, 1736, 1745, 1746, 1747, 1748, 1757, 1762, 1763, 1771, 1786, 1787, 1788, 1809, 1815, 1824, 1836, 1851. B.P. 1861, 1867, 1885. First century, 10 editions; second century, 18.

The publication of "Squires' Companion," and other extra Pharmacopœias, of course, to a great extent, obviates the necessity for more frequent publication. There is one advantage which may be also urged, that more time is thus given to test the real and permanent value of new medicines, and in the present day, when our journals teem with new fads of all kinds, is worthy of our consideration! In the new Pharmacopœia there are about 100 pages more than in the last, and it is evident that the compilers acted very properly upon the principle of only adding those new medicines upon which some decided conclusions had been arrived at, although, in all probability, some of the new remedies will ultimately, as therapeutic knowledge advances, be, with many of the old ones, relegated to obscurity. In examining this work it will be convenient to first of all notice a few changes of a minor but still somewhat important character, and which are alluded to in the preface. The old chemical notation, which, with the new, was previously adopted, is now discarded as obsolete. Some change has been made in the chemical nomenclature to reconcile the names with those employed by modern scientific chemists. In this I think I can trace the hand of Professor Attfield, and it

is a great improvement. The naming of the alkaloids has been altered, and brought into harmony with other Pharmacopœias. Ex. gr. quinia is now quinina; atropia is now atropina. With regard to the other changes before mentioned an example will suffice. Sodii arsenias instead of sodae arsenias, sodium arseniate being the term now used by chemists, instead of the arseniate of soda, which was really incorrect. Parts by weight and fluid parts are now given where practicable, and evidently as a preparation for the future adoption of this method, a system which has been for a long time in use in France and other countries. A great improvement will be gladly recognised in the way in which a certain definiteness is given to the degree of commination necessary for the preparation of solid ingredients for tinctures and other compounds—this method was first adopted in the United States, I think—sieves with 20 and 60 meshes to the linear inch. It is probable that the inconvenient and now little used Fahrenheit thermometer will in the next Pharmacopœia be displaced altogether by the centigrade, which is generally used by scientific men. In 1867 those who remembered the days of old Pharmacopœias (when we had to know the P.L. Ph. E. Pharmacopœia Dublinensis) hailed with delight the introduction of an Imperial Pharmacopœia. Twenty years has shown us a success, and, notwithstanding some and singular shortcomings, I do not think that we ought to be chary of our commendation of those illustrious physicians and surgeons and pharmacists of the three kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland, who have overcome so many difficulties and given us a national Pharmacopœia, thus abolishing the three confusing and differing Pharmacopœias.

I must not detain you, but now proceed to notice, as briefly as possible, the additions, omissions, and alterations made in the new B.P. A list of these is given, and will enable you to at once find out the more important changes; but there are minor alterations, verbal and otherwise, which would require careful comparison, and I may say that a critical examination of this work has occupied me for many hours, and I must crave your indulgence if even now the results of my labours are imperfect.

Of the additions	there are	...	...	114
„ omissions	„	...	...	22
„ substitutions	„	...	...	5
„ alterations in composition	„	...	...	16
„ changes of names	„	...	...	196
„ alterations of strength	„	...	...	8

Among the additions we observe many important and much-used preparations, such as boric acid, chromic acid, hydrobromic acid, oleic acid, salicylic acid, apomorphia, discovered by Mattieson in 1866. Cocaine hydrochloras, cascara sagrada, jaborandi, gelsemium, oleum eucalypti, pilocarpine, oleum santali, dialysed iron, and calamina restored. Among the omissions we gladly notice that ancient, nauseous, and useless drug castoreum, the indefinite and dangerous digitalatinum, the useless magnetic oxide of iron, the drastic succus and syrups rhamni, and others, now known to be of little value, or unnecessary. It is curious to observe how many of the—at times much-vaunted—medicines are ignored by the Medical Council. It is a pity that aq. lauro-cer was not discarded. Of the substitutions all agree that they are improvements. Cinchona rubra for cinchona flava and palida; ung. glycerina plumbi subacetatis for ung. plumbi subacetatis Co. The alteration in the composition of sulphurous acid is right, for practically all pharmacists must have discovered long ago that the former strength was impossible to maintain, and unnecessary. The new method

of preparing extractum cinchonæ liquidum, which, no doubt, we owe to Professor Redwood, and is based upon De Vrij's method, is much better than the old. The infusum cinchonæ acidum will, being based upon the same principle, be found much more certain and stronger than the aqueous infusion of the past. Liquor epispasticus is now made without acetic acid, acetic ether being the menstruum. The amount of potassium iodide is properly increased in linimentum iodi, the iodine slightly increased, evidently to make the column parts by weight and measure agree more nearly. The hypodermic injection of morphine is now 1 in 10, instead of 1 in 12; oleum phosphoratum 1 per cent., instead of .75 per cent., with regard to the solutions for hypodermic injection, and liquor morphine acetatis, and hydrochloratis. The hypodermic solutions were 1 in 12; they are now practically 1 in 10. As the compilers of the B.P. would seem to have aimed at a system of percentages, it is a pity they did not make these solutions by grain measures instead of by ounces. How easy would it be to take 100 grains of morphine acetate, or rather its equivalent of hydrochlorate, and make the solution up to 1000 grain measures!

The term rhisome is new to the B.P., but more correct than radix in the five cases in which it is applied. Assafetida is spelt with one s, which is the spelling found in the Pharmacographia and foreign Pharmacopæias.

Pilula phosphori contains in 3 grains $\frac{3}{10}$; the preparation has been altered; wax reduced and curd soap to be added as required, 1 grain to 2 grains of the mass. In the last "additions" there was 1 grain in 90; in this it is the same. The old formula was very faulty; this is better. The dose has been altered from 3 to 6 grains to 2 to 4 grains.

Pulvis glycyrrhizæ compositus is now what it ought to have been when first introduced, the same as that of the German Pharmacopæia; there was no sulphur in the 1871 "additions," and this difference and the absence of fennel was often a source of trouble to dispensers. The substitution of hydrochlorate of quinine for the sulphate in vinum quininæ is an improvement. Ung. hydrargyri ammoniati is now 1 in 10, instead of 1 in 15.

The formerly very objectionable formulæ for suppositories is now what it should be. The substitution of paraffins for lard in some of the ointments was only to be expected; but in this climate the ordinary soft paraffin, called vaseline, is too soft, and requires, especially in summer, the addition of hard paraffin. The substitution of Scammony resin is good, as it is uniform in composition, and the powder is far from being so; but it renders pills liable to "fall," or lose their shape.

The change of the solutions of arsenic and morphine to 1 per cent. instead of 1 in 109 will meet with approval when the medical profession and pharmacists have become accustomed to it.

We now have the well-known glycerinum tragacanthæ. Linimentum saponis is now made with $\frac{5}{6}$ instead of $\frac{1}{10}$ water. Lin. terebinth is made with glacial acetic acid, and is transparent. Mucilage of tragacanth is made—as I have done for years—by diffusion in spirit before the addition of water. Ung. hyd. nit.-ox. is made with vaseline. If prepared with castor oil it also keeps perfectly. The infusions are now to stand for a shorter time. Glycerinum amyli has an improved formula by the addition of water. Pil. rhei. co. has glycerine added. The introduction of tr. chlorof. et morphina is evidently for the purpose of preventing the use of a secret and quack nostrum, which at the best is a mess. Hydrocyanic acid is one of its constituents. I have not found H. C. N. in chlorodyne. Perhaps it is lost before it reaches Australia. The new formula for vin ipecac. is theoretically correct, and will render this much-employed and valuable preparation more elegant and unvarying. We may accept this as an

improvement. Many of the objections to the new B. P. which I have read in the *Lancet* and other papers seem to me the veriest hypercriticism, and in some instances display pharmaceutical ignorance.

I shall now proceed to notice the minor changes made in the Pharmacopœia. The characters and tests of the new Pharmacopœia are much extended, and rendered more in accordance with modern scientific knowledge. For instance, gum acacia was described as being "In spheroidal tears," &c.; now it is "In roundish, ovoid, or vermicular tears," &c. The specific gravity of acetum cantharides is now given as about 1·060. No sp. gr. was mentioned in 1864. Acetum scillæ is now to be prepared without alcohol, a most decided advantage, as the small quantity of alcohol only caused decomposition, a method which I have adopted for many years. Vinegar is now ordered to contain 5.11 per cent. of real acid $H_2C_2H_3O_2$, instead of 4·6 of acetic anhydride. The dose was 1 to 2dr. ; it is now 1dr. to 1oz.

Acid acetic oil is to contain in one fluid ounce 19 grains of real acid instead of 16 anhydrons. The dose is, like vinegar, increased to 1oz. fluid. The specific gravity of acid acetic glacial is now 1·058; it was 1·065 to 1·066. Arsenious acid is now called an anhydride, "not a true acid," and is more accurate. We find under acid benzocicum that the word crystalline has been omitted, and we are informed that "it is not chemically pure." The revisers have given us a new benzoic acid lozenge. The more scientific and shorter name, boric, has been substituted for boracic acid. Boric acid is not especially an acid of borax, but an acid of the element boron—its formula, $H_3B_2O_5$. The tests for carbolic acid are much improved. Boiling and melting points are now more correct. The acicular and pulverulent varieties of this acid have differing solubilities. Pharmacists should carefully study these tests. Acidum carbolicum liquifactum must be "colourless, or very slightly reddish or brownish." Chromic acid is new to the B. P., but old enough to us. The wonder is that its introduction is so late. The process for making gallic acid is now very simple, the sulphuric acid process being adopted instead of the tedious aqueous one. The process for making hydrobromic acid is so simple that all pharmacists may easily prepare their own stock, although it is quite different to Dr. Fothergill's, and stronger in H.Br. Among the new tests for hydrochloric acid I notice the indigo test for free chlorine. This was in the old P. L., 1836. The term "molecular weight" is now used instead of "equivalent," a molecule of H'cl. being 36·5. This alteration obtains throughout the book.

We are under hydrocyanic acid ordered to perform the estimation "speedily"—a proper caution. Lactic acid is so little used except in the preparation of lacto phosphatic syrups that nothing need be said upon it; it is already familiar. Meconic acid for preparing brineconate of morphia is described. We shall now have a definite compound instead of a secret and indefinite. I am quite surprised that the editors of the B.P. should have ordered dilute nitro. hydrochloric acid to stand for 14 days. Dr. Tilden, some years ago, in a careful research, showed that this notion is erroneous. Oleic acid we have used for years, and also concentrated phosphoric acid. Aromatic sulphuric acid is now to be made with tinctures of ginger and cinnamon instead of the crude drugs. No maceration is now required; its sp. gravity has been altered to 0·911; it was 0·927. This acid is to be employed in making inf. cinchonæ acidum. The sp. gr. of sulphurous acid is now 1·025. It was 1·04.

We are notified that the tartaric acid of trade should respond to the tests as given.

In the notices of plants constant reference is now made to the admirable work of Bentley and Trimen's "Medicinal Plants." The botanical characters

of leaves, &c., are now much more minute and correct, and will require the attention of our lecturers and students. Under radix aconiti we have now intelligible description of the root. How different from the vagueness of the old B.P.

I am glad to notice that the quantity of benzoin has been reduced in adeps benzoatus. I have always found the quantity excessive. The mode of preparing adeps preparatus is entirely and very wisely altered. The old method with water was very objectionable in every way. The quantity of lime is increased in the formula for ether purus.

Aloes. The characteristics of Barbadoes and socotrine aloes are given more minutely. "Curaçoa aloes" is mentioned in this edition, and its difference pointed out. It "is more glossy and translucent" than ordinary Barbadoes aloes, and has a distinctive odour. The true species is given which yields socotrine aloes—aloe Perryi. Aloin is introduced, with which we are familiar.

Alumen exsiccatum is now very properly ordered to be made from potassium alum.

To the tests for bromide ammonium a volumetric standard is added. Ammonium carbonate has now a different formula, $N_3 H_{11} C_2 O_5 = 167$; it was $N_4 H_{16} C_3 O_8$. This salt is now considered to be a compound of one molecule each of carbonate and carbamate of ammonium—52 $\frac{1}{3}$ grains equal to 1000 grains of standard oxalic acid, instead of 59 grains; 20 grains equal to 26 $\frac{2}{3}$ of citric acid and 28 $\frac{2}{3}$ of tartaric, instead of 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ respectively. The sp. gr. of amyl nitrite is now 0.880—it was 0.877—and the tests are more exact. Under amyrum we have microscopic tests given to enable the pharmacist to distinguish wheat starch from maize and rice. In the description of fructus anethi and other fruits the botanist has evidently been at work carefully. The fruit of the illicium anisatum is now made official. Pharmaceutical students will do well to carefully study the botanical description of the new Pharmacopœia.

Black antimony is now purified by treatment with ammonia to ensure the absence of arsenious compounds.

All the waters, with the exception of camphor and chloroform, are to be distilled. In the United States Ph. the oils can be used, being dissolved in the water by means of cotton wool. Aq. rosa and sambuci now make 5 gallons instead of 2 from the same quantity of petals and flowers. The test for silver is made more definite.

We are now informed that 50 or 60 per cent. of asafætida should be soluble in rectified spirit. Formerly "it dissolved almost entirely in spirit." A neat test is given for balsam of Tolu. A thin film is to be pressed between two pieces of glass, and examined with a lens, and should exhibit an abundance of crystals of cinnamic acid. The characters and tests for belladonna root are now much extended, and demand careful attention by those who prepare the liniment or extract. The solution of bismuth is now to be prepared from the citrate, and is a great improvement upon the old method, freedom from arsenio, etc., being assured. The purification of metallic bismuth is now in accord with correct metallurgical methods, but we cannot go into details, as I find the time at my command too short. I must confine my remarks now to only salient points.

Calx chlorimata—formerly chlorata, which was very incorrect—must have 33 per cent. of available Cl.; it was 30 per cent. Calx sulphurata is a new preparation, and not much used, but well known to us. It is difficult to keep, and only very small quantities should be made at a time. I notice that the vague and often unintelligible term "lines," as a measure of parts of an inch, is now discarded. Under carbo. animalis the word charcoal is changed to carbon.

The quantity of linseed meal is increased in cataplasma conii, and hemlock juice is to be used instead of the leaves.

Olive oil is left out of the cataplasma lini. The preparation of cataplasma sinapis is now as it should be; formerly it was wrong and unscientific. Under cera flava you will find a method for taking the melting point, 146 deg. F.; it was 140 deg.; its specific gravity is now given as .350 to .970. The improved tests of the Pharmacopœia will also require the attention of our students; probably many defects will be found, but I am not looking so much for them as for improvements, and they are most marked. Whatever defects there may be, no one can but see that great labour and scientific care have been taken in this revision; it is apparent in every page. Charta sinapis is now to be made from a mixture of black and white mustard. Chloroform has now a sp. gr. of 1.497, it was 1.49. One per cent of ethylic alcohol may now be added by the manufacturer; it has long been found that this prevents decomposition and is harmless. Although this amount of alcohol seems large a less quantity would do.

Chrysophanic acid is not one of the additions, but chrysarobin, which contains "much" of it. As Professor Attfield made careful original research upon this substance, we may be assured that this is satisfactory. But if chrysarobin is looked upon as the same as commercial goax powder difficulties will arise. Hydrochlorate of cocaine is said to be readily soluble in ether. This is apparently an error; the pure alkaloid is soluble. *En passant* I may observe that the word drachm is not used in this B.P., or only in the doses, ounces, and parts of an ounce only. The old drachm has gone at last!—without scruple! One-eighth of a fluid ounce is used instead in some cases. On further examination, I find that the editors have fallen into numerous inconsistencies in this matter. Confectio sulphuris has 2 grains of tragacanth added to each ounce—an improvement. I would direct attention to the tests for copaiba, as they are now definite; and also the tests for creasote.

The quantity of saffron and myrrh has been reduced in decoction of aloes. It is a pity that so expensive and yet useless a drug as saffron cannot be discarded except for the syrupus eruci. In the preparation of dec. haematoxyli I notice that 55 grains is given instead of 60 for cort cinnamomi, and under dec. sarsæ co. the quantity of mezereon root is to be $\frac{1}{2}$ of an ounce. Now $\frac{1}{2}$ of an ounce is 54.7 nearly. How much better it would have been to have made it the same as in dec. haematoxyli, 55 grains. This is evidently a slip. Dispensers must be very careful to note that elaterin is not the same as elaterium. Emp. belladonna is now improved by the substitution of the alcoholic extract for the dirty, crude, green extract.

Under emp. ammoniaci c. hyd. I notice that for the old drachm measure of olive oil we have 55 grains; that is its equivalent according to sp. gravity. This is very exact!

The extract of nux vomica is now to be standardized, a great pharmaceutical improvement, especially as the tincture is now to be prepared from the extract. Extractum opii is also to be standardized.

Rhamnus frangula is now introduced instead of the drastic rhamnus catharticus, as first recommended, I think, by the late Mr. Bailldon. The preparation of liquor sassaæ is quite altered, and ought to yield a better compound; it now contains sugar. Taraxacum is so unimportant a medicine that we need only to note the new fluid extract; the succus, I suppose, has not been found of much use. Ferri arsenias is now more scientifically and economically prepared. The standard of $Fe CO_3 \times H_2O$ has been properly reduced; it was never a definite compound, as the unknown quantity symbol \times now used indicates!

Water is now to be added to glycerinum boracis. The glycerinum tannin would be the better for the same.

As in all probability elaborate criticisms of the new Pharmacopœia will soon cover the pages of the journals devoted to pharmacy, which will render unnecessary any very elaborate further paper on the subject, I may be permitted to briefly summarise a few of the most important changes, and without any particular order of statement. Aq. anisi and ung. staphisagriæ have been restored. Lig. atropiæ discarded for obvious reasons. Linimentum belladonnæ and aconiti are now made up to 30 oz. from the same quantity of root. In preparing liquor calcis we are ordered to first wash the lime to free it from chlorides, an obvious improvement. Donovan's solution is made directly from the iodides of arsenic and mercury. The sp. gr. of liq. ferri dialysati is evidently wrongly given, no doubt a typographical error. It should be 1·040. The same of sp. am. co. syr. ferri phosph is double the strength, although the process of 1867 was stated to give the same. Tinctura ferri perchloridi is improved by the substitution of proof for rectified spirit. Absolute alcohol has now to be of sp. gr. 795. It was 797 to 806, a doubtful alteration.

Portes and Langlois' easy and accurate method for estimating morphia is adopted. Lin. saponis has an addition of more water. Lin. iodi has glycerine substituted for camphor. Curd soap is to be used in the preparation of lin. potassii iodidi, a method which I have employed and found advantageous. Glycerine is added to pil. rhei co. and pilula aloes et myrrha. Tincture of kino is to be prepared with the addition of glycerine. The preparation of compound spirit of ammonia is now ordered to be made by a very much improved method. Any of you who have had experience in the old process will at once see that a better and more uniform product will result, and the blocking up of the condensing tube with crystallised ammonium carbonate obviated, and also a loss of ammonia which was with difficulty avoided. The medical editors have not seen fit to add any of the numerous medicines included in the following list, many of which have been extensively advertised and prescribed. We may, therefore, consider that the eminent physicians of the Council either consider them of doubtful value or valueless.

Pyrogallic acid.
Pancreatin.
Boroglyceride.
Convallaria.
Coto.
Boldo.
Duboisin.

Euonyscin, and other principles of
the same class.
Hammamelis.
Hagelin.
Monobromide of camphor.
Paraldehyde.
Zinc phosphide, etc., etc.

I notice that the phrase, "as seen in the Pharmacies," is used instead of the old term "shops." All will assent to this. I must now defer further observations until another opportunity, as I cannot, without wearying you by the length of my paper, continue. I have only gone over one-third of the work, however. I hope another paper will, if you permit, enable me to briefly touch upon those changes in our B.P. which will be of practical use and interest to you.

It is announced that Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker will retire from the post of Director of the Royal Gardens at Kew on the 30th of the present month.

A NEW use for antipyrine is claimed by Dr. Laurand, who states (*British Medical Journal*, p. 993), that it acts as a powerful haemostatic in epistaxis when used in solution of the strength of 1 part in 30.

CURIOSITIES OF POISONS.

In popular language, a poison is a substance which, administered in small doses, destroys life. Obviously, however, the toxicologist must of necessity enlarge the definition, and embrace many substances not generally accepted as poisons. No one outside the faculty would, for example, consider such well-known medicines as cream of tartar, tartaric acid, alum, Epsom salts, and even ordinary table salt to be poisons, and yet each of these substances has been the cause of more than one accidental or criminal fatality. Not only so, but the commonest of domestic remedies may be made, by abuse, to come under the cognisance of the toxicologist. A number of years ago, a paragraph appeared in some of the medical journals concerning the death of an innkeeper from the effects of a quack pill. It appeared that the man was in the habit of taking the pills to such excess that he was often obliged to send for medical advice to cure him. Being warned against the danger of the practice, he began to take them in secret, excusing the number that he still continued to buy by stating that he gave them to his horses. A *post-mortem* examination left no doubt whatever about the cause of his death. We merely quote the case to show the truth of the aphorism, that while a poison may in small doses be a medicine, a medicine in large doses may also be a poison.

Modern investigation and discovery, especially into those subtle and active principles derived from the vegetable kingdom, have undoubtedly done much to enlarge the scope, and render the study of toxicology more elaborate and difficult than it was in more remote times. Still, early investigators seem to have been aware of what, even in this enlightened age, may be called a fundamental principle of the treatment of cases of poisoning—namely, the prevention of the absorption of the poison into the system. Thus, Nicander, Galen, and Dioscorides all recommend the application of cupping instruments, sucking the wound, cauterising with hot irons, and the application of leeches in the treatment of bites from venomous animals and insects. On the same principle, hot oil was a common remedy for internal poisoning, on the supposition that the oil not only acted as a quick emetic, but also prevented the poison from being absorbed into the system. It is curious to notice in passing how thoroughly modern practice is in accord with the principles here laid now nearly seventeen centuries ago. Let anyone, however ignorant in other respects, be bitten by a dog or cat, particularly in the summer season, when rabies is thought to prevail, and the first impulse is to get the wound cauterised. If this is impossible, the more primitive plan of sucking the wound is almost instinctively adopted. In like manner, for internal poisoning there is scarcely an instance, even with all the many subtle organic poisons of the present time, in which the free administration of emetics, followed by oleaginous or mucilaginous drinks, to prevent absorption, is not applicable. Again, it was remarked by Avicenna, in the beginning of the eleventh century, that venesection should not take place unless where the poison was distributed over the whole system, as, when the veins were full, the poison could not get admission into them. The wisdom of this observation has been amply confirmed by the researches of Orfila, Magendie, Paris, and others in the present century. Not only have such specialists investigated the action of poisons on the human system, and thus demonstrated what was previously, to a great extent, mere conjecture, but they have also instituted a scientific treatment of poisoning, which sharply marks the toxicology of the present time from that of any other age—namely, the use of chemical antidotes. The importance of this last point can only be properly estimated when we consider the number and potency of many of the chemical and medicinal poisons discovered in recent times.

Tartar emetic, which probably, next to arsenic, has attained the most unenviable notoriety in our day for criminal proceedings, was discovered towards the middle of the seventeenth century. Hydrocyanic acid, the most potent of poisons, the vapour of which, accidentally inhaled, has been known to produce serious consequences, was only discovered towards the latter end of the eighteenth century. Oxalic acid, which has probably caused more deaths than any other poison from accidental administration, owing to its having a somewhat distant resemblance to the well-known medicine Epsom salts, was discovered about the same period. Morphia, the most important and useful of the vegetable poisons, although known in a very impure state as "Magisterium Opii" in the seventeenth century, was not obtained as a well-defined base until the beginning of the nineteenth century. Strychnine was discovered about the same time; while aconitine—first brought into distinctive prominence in this country in connection with the notorious criminal, Lamson—was discovered a few years later still. After this, in rapid succession, followed the discovery of nicotine, the active principle of the tobacco-plant; atropine, the active principle of the deadly nightshade; chloroform, the well-known anaesthetic; and chloral, long considered a chemical curiosity, but, within the last few years, manufactured and used as an opiate by the hundredweight. Medicine has at the same time been enriched by the addition of such powerful agents as the ordeal or Calabar bean of Africa, and the arrow-poison or curara of the Indians.

The very mention of these deadly agents is sufficient to indicate the difficulty and importance of the work of the toxicologist, as well as of medical men generally, at the present time. The difficulty and importance lie in various directions, but particularly in the preliminary detection of the symptoms of poisoning, in the prompt administration of the most suitable antidotes, and in the *post-mortem* detections of the poison in cases of death. This last point is not the least important, as one curious fact in connection with the majority of the foregoing poisons is the rapidity of their decomposition, and the consequent difficulty of detecting them shortly after death. This is characteristic of every organic poison; but several of those just mentioned are *not* of organic origin, such as hydrocyanic acid, chloroform, chloral, &c., and yet, being volatile, or readily decomposed into volatile principles, they also very soon escape the possibility of detection. This is not the case, however, with the older and better known mineral poisons, as they are all indestructible by the lapse of time. Several well-authenticated cases of the detection of mineral poisons long after death are given in every text-book on poisons; but the following remarkable cases have not been cited, so far as we are aware.

A wealthy county farmer in England having died, was buried in the tomb where his father had been interred thirty-five years before. An examination of certain of the bones of the father disclosed brilliant particles of a metallic-looking substance, which, on being collected together, presented a considerable quantity of what was proved to be oxide of mercury. The mercury had thus been preserved for more than the third of a century in the body of the deceased, the probability being that he had been in the habit of taking it medicinally during the latter part of his life. An equally remarkable case, or rather series of cases, came under the notice of the late eminent chemist, Mr. Heripath of Bristol, in which he found abundant traces of arsenic in the bodies of several young children after a lapse of eight years; the evidence both of criminal poisoning and of the presence of the poison used being so clear, that the jury without hesitation returned a verdict "that the deceased children died from the effects of arsenic, but how or by whom administered there is no evidence to show."

The presence of small quantities of certain metallic poisons, such as arsenic, copper, lead, or mercury, in the system does not, however, necessarily imply either accidental or criminal poisoning. Mercury in one form or another is often administered as medicine; lead is frequently present in our food as well as in the water we drink; copper is used to give certain preserved vegetables the bright green of the fresh fruit; while arsenic is so frequently met with in nature that a French chemist undertook to find it in the legs of any old chair! It is found in considerable traces in certain soils; and this fact led at least in one instance to the acquittal of a prisoner indicted for murder, through the ingenious suggestion that the arsenic found in the body might have filtered through the wet soil into a crack found in the lid of the coffin, and thus passed on to the body where it was found. There is no end to the ingenuity of counsel in such cases. In another instance, arsenic was found in the liquid contents of the stomach in considerable quantity; but the analysis in this case had not extended to the tissues. The counsel in defence contended that the proof of poisoning had failed, inasmuch as the medical evidence should have proved the absorption of the poison by the tissues to produce poisoning. The prisoner was acquitted. Not less ingenious was the defence of counsel in the case of Madeline Smith in 1857 for the murder of L'Angelier at Glasgow by the administration of arsenic. Counsel founded their defence mainly on two points. The first was the fact that eighty-eight grains of arsenic had been found in the body, and that such a large dose had never before been proved to have been unconsciously swallowed, arguing from this that the poison must have been self-administered. The second point was that the purchases of arsenic which the prisoner was proved to have made were intended for cosmetic purposes.

The idea of using arsenic as a cosmetic takes us almost unconsciously back to the beginning of the eighteenth century, when an old bag, named Toffania, of Naples, was strangled for having directly or indirectly been the cause of poisoning more than six hundred persons. The poison which she prepared was proved to be merely a solution of salts of arsenic, and this preparation was found to be in circulation throughout Italy under the assumed name, for secrecy, of a famous oil, supposed to possess miraculous healing properties. Anyone in the secret could buy the poison under the guise of using it as any liniment or cosmetic might be used, while under its cover lay death to the victim in a day, week, or month, at the will of the administrator.

Strange as it may appear, national crime like this seems very much to have run in cycles in some Continental countries; and although our own country has been free from it in such gigantic proportions, it has not altogether been so free from the crime of murder as not to make us thankful that modern investigation has rendered the perpetration of such villainy almost impossible. Every murder of modern times has but made the perpetration of future murder less easy; and the very ingenuity of counsel in their defence of such cases has only assisted to this end by exposing all the weaker points for the future guidance of the public prosecutor. Were proof of this needed, it is only necessary to point out that some of the most notorious crimes of modern times have been committed with the most subtle and powerful of all known poisons, and directed with a skill and ability which could only proceed from a trained and scientific acquaintance with the substance used. What, however, has been the result? Strychnine in the hands of Dr. Palmer, tartar emetic in that of Dr. Pritchard, and aconitine in that of Dr. Lamson, too certainly accomplished the purpose for which they were intended; but with all the ingenuity and skill and opportunity at their disposal, they could not escape the fruits of their

villainy. Their history is a striking proof of the fact, that if modern discovery has given the agents for perpetrating crime, it has no less yielded the means for their scientific detection.

Not the least interesting of many curious features connected with the production and consumption of certain poisons is the extraordinary quantities that are in some instances manufactured. What becomes of them? It is comparatively easy to understand what is implied by one thousand Winchester quarts of chloroform, and one thousand, or even ten thousand, ounces of morphia; but what of a poison like chloral? It has already been stated that chloral is at present being manufactured by the hundredweight. This, however, as a matter of fact, falls far short of the reality, as one German manufacturer recently admitted the production of half a ton weekly in his laboratory alone. There is no recognised outlet for the consumption of this substance saving that of internal administration, and we confess the imagination gets baffled in endeavouring to estimate the hundreds of thousands of pain-stricken, weary mortals who must swallow an indefinite number of half-tons weekly, in doses of twenty or thirty, or at the most forty grains each. A number of years ago, something little short of a panic was occasioned by attention having been called to the fact that strychnine was being manufactured in enormous quantities, one thousand ounces having been known to be purchased at one time. What became of this extraordinary quantity was the question that not unnaturally seized the public mind. As a medicine, its use is necessarily very limited; while its indiscriminate sale, or employment, as a destructive agent for vermin—the only other legitimate purpose to which it is known to be applied—is restricted by legislative enactment. In such circumstances, it was reasonable to seek some other explanation for its enormous production, and the public mind somewhat mysteriously fixed upon beer as being the medium. For a time, it was currently believed that the bitter principle of the hop was substituted, or at least fortified, by the help of strychnine; and although this was ultimately disproved, the mystery of the quantities in which it was being manufactured was only partially solved by the suggestion that it was probably destined for the colonies, to assist in exterminating vermin there.

Still another curious fact remains to be noticed in connection with strychnine—the frequency with which it has been found in admixture with another neutral principle called santonine. Santonine is derived from the seeds of the *Artemisia santonica* (wormseed), and is much used in medicine as a simple vermifuge, particularly for children. It will therefore be at once understood that a mixture of the two substances means death to anyone getting such a dose; and, as a matter of fact, deaths have occurred in our own country, in France, Spain, Germany, and in America, from this extraordinary cause. It will be kept in mind that we do not speak at present of a simple case of substitution, in which the doctor or the druggist lifts and dispenses from the wrong bottle. Deaths, unfortunately, have occurred in this way also; but, generally speaking, there is no mystery whatever about such cases. The mystery we refer to is, that santonine, which undoubtedly has been in the first instance derived from various sources, extending over a period of years, and in the experience of various nationalities, has been proved to be mixed with strychnine. Various suggestions and theories have been put forth to account for the fatality, and amongst others the probability that the *santonica* seeds may have been adulterated by other seeds resembling them, but strychnine-yielding; and also that the cases of poisoning narrated were not caused by strychnine, but were actually produced by an overdose of santonine itself, acting on some peculiar idiosyncrasy of the constitution. This last suggestion is at once met by the direct fact, that strychnine was not only discovered in the majority of instances,

on a *post-mortem* examination being made, but its source was also traced, and, in every case the mixture as stated, satisfactorily proved. As to the other theory, the mixture of seeds, granting that the same process which extracts the santonine from the santonica would also extract the strychnine from the strychnos, it is hardly conceivable that the adulteration would escape the notice of the different manufacturers; far less would it be possible, even if it did, to produce a simple *mixture* of crystals, such as appears to have been characteristic of these fatalities. In the process of crystallisation, the two substances would not have crystallised separately to form a mixture, but would have blended together to form a distinct and uniform crystal. The more probable explanation is, that a distant resemblance both in the spelling and pronouncing of the two names, favoured by a similarity in their physical appearance, has led to some confusion at one point or another, whereby the one has been accepted for the other. Still, even with this explanation, it remains a curious fact that the error has so frequently repeated itself both in this and other countries.

Mistakes of any kind with poisons will almost always lead to results more or less serious, as well as mysterious, if not detected in time. The dismay, for example, that was caused five or six years ago by numerous fatalities from the use of a dusting powder largely adulterated with arsenic must still be fresh in the memory of everyone. Fifteen children died from arsenical poisoning produced by the use of this powder, and while, fortunately, its supply was distinctly and quickly traced to its source, and its use confined to a comparatively limited area, the mystery, we believe, has never been explained as to how the arsenic was substituted for *terra alba*, which it was sold as, and supposed to be, or how it came to be supplied in such large quantity without detection in some manner or other.

Equally serious and still more mysterious was a case that happened in a madhouse in the Southern States of America with aconitine, shortly after this powerful agent had been brought prominently into note in connection with the trial of Lamson. The medicines—in this instance all simple, it appears—were given to the patients of the asylum in open dishes carried on trays; and whilst the trays were waiting for the nurses to take them to their different wards, it is thought someone must have tampered with them. Within a few minutes after the medicines had been taken the patients complained of the effects; and within ten minutes several had died, whilst other two died after two hours, and another still after two days. *Post-mortem* examinations discovered the presence of aconitine in considerable quantity, and some of it in the crystalline form. The fatal results could not be attributed to any of the ordinary preparations of aconite; while, to add to the mystery, aconitine was unknown in the laboratory of the asylum, neither was it kept in stock by any chemist in the town. Anything more fiendish than this, if done intentionally, can scarcely be conceived. It opens up, however, a question which has often forced itself upon the writer as a probable solution of some unexplained and apparently unexplainable crimes. Has the secret possession of or the power of obtaining such powerful agents as those we have been speaking of not a tendency to act on certain morbid minds, instigating to the perpetration of crime? Everyone has read of the impulse which seizes some individuals on looking over any huge precipice to cast themselves headlong from it. The impulse is described in some instances as being awful in its intensity. Is it not possible that certain individuals may thus also be acted upon to commit some fearful crime, when possessed of the means to do so? Read in this light, some historical crimes become intelligible, at least, in so far as supplying the link that is so often awanting as to their cause—namely, motive.—*Chambers' Journal*.

Victoria.

PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA.

THE monthly meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria was held at the College of Pharmacy on Wednesday, 13th January, 1886.

Present—Messrs. Blackett, Brind, Francis, Holdsworth, Tompsitt, and Owen.

The president (Mr. C. R. Blackett) in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

An apology was received from Mr. Bowen.

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION.

The following were registered as pharmaceutical chemists:—

William Parton Willis, Albert Park, passed Major Examination, Victoria.

Siegfried Pincus, Melbourne, passed Major Examination, Victoria.

John G. B. Duncan, Brighton, Certificate Pharm. Soc., Great Britain, Minor Examination.

APPRENTICES' INDENTURES REGISTERED.

Henry Holmes, Prahran, apprenticed to Mr. C. Harrison, Prahran.

George Alfred Wilkins, Geelong, apprenticed to Mr. B. G. Wilkins, Geelong.

SALE AND USE OF POISONS ACT.—RENEWALS OF CERTIFICATES

(*To Persons resident four miles from a Registered Pharmaceutical Chemist.*)

E. Mooney, Mansfield.

S. Paternoster, Berwick.

G. Flack, Ballan.

W. White, Romsey.

John Ettelson, Kaniva.

T. Chalmers, Bungaree.

T. Bergin, Griffiths' Point.

A. Phillips, Minyip.

T. Montgomery, Mortlake.

John R. Smith, Whittlesea.

Thos. W. Smith, Branxholme.

C. Andrews, Boort.

R. Smart, Allansford.

T. Brown, Baldwinsville.

H. H. Kitchen, Mansfield.

R. W. Tanner, Egerton.

J. G. Hudson, Cranbourne.

Stephen Howe, Tallarook.

M. Rosenthal, Harrow.

C. Band, Whroo.

C. Brazier, Drysdale.

G. B. Berry, Taradale.

A. Goldstin, Ross Bridge.

W. J. Irwin, Terang.

G. M'Pherson, Trentham.

T. G. Pearce, Bacchus Marsh.

N. Rudduck, Dromana.

J. Williams, Rosedale.

F. Murrell, Winchelsea.

J. Josephs, Lillimur North.

F. Wilkins, Newlyn.

W. Dyring, Tallangatta.

D. Walters, Rupanyup.

E. L. Glowrey, Birregurra.

H. C. Palmer, Majorca.

A. Serpell, Box Hill.

H. Rosenbloom, Heywood.

J. Curzens, Balmoral.

A. Stewart, Mortlake.

W. Fairlie, Lexton.

R. Fletcher, Heywood.

Mrs. A. E. Gard, Bridgewater.

W. P. Wright, Trentham.

J. C. Hodgson, Pakenham.

THE AMENDED PHARMACY ACT 1885.

The various clauses of the Amended Act were discussed, with a view of the provisions being carried out, and the registrar was instructed to forward a copy to the secretaries of the Mutual Store and Equitable Co-operative Society, and draw their attention to clause 10.

APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINERS.

The appointment of examiners for the year 1886 was postponed, to be dealt with by the new members who are to be elected in February next.

PERMISSION TO CARRY ON BUSINESS UNDER SECTION 23, PHARMACY ACT 1876.

Permission was granted, under section 23 of the Pharmacy Act 1876, to the following persons (widows and executrices of pharmaceutical chemists) to carry on business, under the management of a registered pharmaceutical chemist, for a period of twelve months, ending the 31st December, 1886 :—

- Mrs. Leah Davis, St. Kilda.
- „ Lavinia Imes, Emerald Hill.
- „ Sarah Jessie Obbinson, Toorak.
- „ K. N. Simonds, Echuca.
- „ Agnes L. M'Burney, Benalla.

ANNUAL BALANCE-SHEET.

The treasurer submitted the balance-sheet to the 31st December, 1885.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL REGISTER OF VICTORIA.

A copy of the Pharmaceutical Register of Victoria was laid on the table, and certified to by the board.

Mr. J. Bosisto forwarded his resignation as examiner in *materia medica*, and a unanimous vote of thanks was accorded him for his valuable services in the past.

A unanimous vote of thanks was also passed to Mr. J. Holdsworth, who retires as a member of the Board, and does not offer himself for re-election, and also to the retiring president, Mr. C. R. Blackett.

A large amount of routine business brought the meeting to a close.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

THE monthly meeting of the council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia was held at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, on Friday, 8th January, 1886.

Present—Messrs. Harrison, Tompsitt, Baker, Huntsman, Hooper, Gamble, and Shillinglaw.

Mr. Thomas Huntsman in the chair.

Apologies were received from Mr. C. R. Blackett and Mr. Bowen.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

NOMINATION OF NEW MEMBERS.

The following new members, having complied with the necessary form of application, were nominated for membership :—

- Mr. Walter George Piper, Melbourne.
- Mr. Edward Donaghys, Numurkah.
- Mr. John C. C. Jones, Lilydale.
- Mr. Paul Ward Farmer, Melbourne.

THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

The report of the committee appointed to deal with the 1886 session of the college was read. It recommends the appointment of lecturers in chemistry, *materia medica*, and botany, and the theory and practice of pharmacy, and also that the lecturer shall not give private tuition, or receive as boarders any students who attend the college courses.

A number of other recommendations are made as to the general conduct of the lecturers and students.

The report, after being received, was discussed at some length by the council, and will be finally dealt with at the next meeting.

THE ANNUAL BALANCE-SHEETS.

In accordance with Section 70 of the Articles of Association the balance-sheet of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, and the balance-sheet of the benevolent fund, duly audited, were submitted to the council. They were ordered to be printed, and a copy sent to each member.

RETIRING MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.

Lots were drawn for the retiring members of council. The following are the members who retire, but are eligible for re-election :—Mr. William Bowen, Mr. James Lacey, Mr. H. T. Tompsitt, and Mr. J. C. Jones.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters were received and dealt with from Mr. J. W. Scott, Ballarat; Mr. J. C. C. Jones, Lilydale; Mr. Graves Aickin, Auckland; Mr. Francis Forrest, Hobart; Mr. W. J. Main, Adelaide; Mr. H. G. Greenish, and Mr. S. Plowman, London, the secretary of the International Pharmaceutical Conference, Brussels.

An application was submitted from Mr. W. G. Piper, asking to be allowed to be present at the meetings of the council, and it was resolved that Mr. Piper be informed that the meetings are not open to the public, but that the secretary is authorised to supply to members of the Press such information as is of public interest. It was mentioned in connection with the publication which Mr. Piper represents that the solicitor acting in the matter had written, cautioning Mr. J. V. Morgan, who is the representative in Victoria of the English proprietors, that if the copyright of the *Australasian Chemist and Druggist* was infringed legal proceedings would be taken against them. Mr. J. V. Morgan has disregarded this caution, and an injunction will be applied for as soon as the vacation in the law courts is over.

THE BALLARAT CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.

A WELL attended meeting of the Ballarat Chemists' Association was held on 13th January to elect officers for the present year. Mr. T. Longstaff was elected president, and Mr. G. S. Bloore vice-president, and Messrs. King and Scott were re-elected to the offices of hon. treasurer and hon. secretary respectively. The result of the election was received with much satisfaction by the members, the gentlemen elected being well known to have the interest of the association and pharmacy in general at heart, and with all confidence a prosperous year is looked forward to under their rule.

At this meeting, also, as is the custom of the association, arrangements were made for celebrating the annual reunion. This year it has been decided to have a picnic at Lake Learmonth, and it is confidently expected that the association will be well represented.

The correspondence with regard to the *Chemist and Druggist of Australasia* was submitted to the meeting, and, though one or two have ordered the new publication, none intend to drop the subscription to the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy* issued by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia.

LUNCHEON BY THE MEMBERS OF THE PHARMACY BOARD TO MR. J. BOSISTO, M.P.

A PLEASANT little gathering took place at the conclusion of the monthly meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria on the 13th inst., when the members adjourned to the Maison Dorée, where an excellent lunch was served. Mr. J. Bosisto, M.P., was present by invitation, this being the last occasion before his departure for Europe that he would have of meeting his late colleagues. Additional interest was lent to the proceedings from the fact that it was also the last meeting of the board at which Mr. John Holdsworth, J.P., of Sandhurst, would attend. Mr. C. R. Blackett occupied the chair, and at the conclusion of the repast proposed the health of Mr. Bosisto, and in an earnest speech dwelt on the many valuable services rendered to the cause of pharmacy in Victoria by that gentleman.

Mr. Bosisto, in reply, reviewed what had been accomplished by the Pharmacy Board since 1876, and said that he felt quite content to leave the future in the hands of the present board.

The health of Mr. John Holdsworth was proposed by Mr. Henry Brind, who stated that Mr. Holdsworth had occupied a seat at the Pharmacy Board since its inception, having been three times elected to represent Sandhurst. Mr. Brind said there was another of their number whose name would be always cordially remembered—he referred to Mr. Geo. Lewis—who, although not now a member of the board, would always be thought of with kindly feelings for the very genuine interest he took in the affairs of the board. Mr. Holdsworth returned thanks, and stated that his reason for not offering himself for re-election was that he thought he was entitled to a well-earned holiday.

Mr. Bosisto proposed the health of Mr. C. R. Blackett, and, in the course of his remarks, he said he knew of no one who had taken so genuine an interest in the advancement of pharmacy as Mr. Blackett. He had initiated and carried out some of the most important events in pharmacy in the history of Victoria, and he felt proud to be succeeded by a gentleman who was held in such esteem. Mr. Blackett duly responded.

THE INTERCOLONIAL PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

THE Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference, which, it will be remembered, was, at the instance of Mr. H. T. Tompsitt, fixed to be held in Melbourne in October next, is meeting with general approval. Intimation has already been received by Mr. Shillinglaw, who has undertaken to act as hon. secretary to the conference, that several colonies will send representatives; and a circular embracing the subjects to be brought forward will shortly be issued and forwarded to all the colonies for their suggestion and approval.

We are pleased to find that this important subject is meeting with sterling support, and have no doubt of its success in augmenting that good feeling which should exist between Australasian pharmacists.

Mr. Shillinglaw will be happy to receive communications from those interested in the matter.

IT has been pointed out in the *American Druggist* that when the corks of bottles containing essential oils, such as that of bergamot, become bleached, this is due to ozone, and may be taken as a warning that the oils are rapidly becoming altered.

The Month.

WE have received from the General Medical Council a copy of the new British Pharmacopœia, 1885.

WE regret to announce that Mr. E. Bage has been confined to his house through illness for some days past.

WE have received from Mr. Chas. W. Day, secretary of the Illinois Board of Pharmacy, the Fourth Annual Report of the Board, with the abstract of State Pharmacy Register.

THE annual cricket match of the Wholesale against the Retail Chemists will be, we understand, held on a day to be fixed next month. The match which was played last year resulted in a most enjoyable reunion; and we hope this year to see the holiday a more general one. The arrangement of the match this year is in the hands of the wholesale firms.

THE diaries issued by the proprietors of the *Chemist and Druggist* of London, and which are supplied to the society as purchasers of so many copies of that publication, were received on the 31st of December, and were distributed as quickly as possible. In cases where they have not reached their destination a notification should be sent to Mr. Shillinglaw, at the College of Pharmacy.

THE proprietors of the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy* have under consideration the preparation of a diary, to be presented to members of the Pharmaceutical Society and subscribers. It is proposed to make it a handy book of reference, containing a large amount of information especially adapted to Australasian pharmacists; and last, but not least, it is not contemplated to make it an advertising medium.

THE election of three members of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, caused by the retirement of Messrs. Blackett, Bowen, and Holdsworth, will take place on the 8th of February next. Nomination papers must be lodged at the office of the Pharmacy Board, College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, Melbourne, before four o'clock in the afternoon of the 25th January, 1886. The returning officer's announcement appears in our advertising columns.

AT the meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia held on the 8th January, the retiring members of the council were decided by lot. The following are the members who retire, but are eligible for re-election:—Messrs. Wm. Bowen, H. T. Tompsitt, J. Lacey, and J. C. Jones. The election takes place on the day fixed for the annual meeting, the 10th of March next. Members intending to offer themselves as candidates for the council must be nominated twenty-eight days before the day of election.

THE friends of Mr. Sidney Plowman will be glad to hear that gentleman has passed the examination for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons on the 30th November last. We, in Victoria, are greatly indebted to Mr. Plowman for many acts of kindness, and for the very great interest he has always taken in colonial pharmacy. The members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia also most cordially recognise the great obligations they are under to Professors Redwood and Attfield for their valuable advice and assistance whenever it has been sought.

SOME tubers of the parent potato plant which were found by a traveller in South America were obtained a short time ago by Mr. Bosisto, M.L.A., and handed to the department of Agriculture for experimental purposes. A few of the tubers were forwarded to Mr. George Neilson, the curator of the Horticultural Society's Gardens, Richmond, who informed the Secretary for Agriculture, a few days ago, that he is conducting experiments with considerable success. Mr. Neilson thinks that the new potato is securely acclimatised, but he will continue his experiments with a view of obtaining an improved tuber.

THE gold medal given by the council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia to the student who passed the best examination of the year in the subjects of *materia medica*, botany, and chemistry at the College of Pharmacy, has been awarded to Mr. Paul Ward Farmer. This gentleman has also been successful in securing the prize given by the president (Mr. Wm. Bowen) to the student who obtained the highest marks in the practical pharmacy examination. The prizes will be presented at the annual meeting in March next.

THE Pharmaceutical Register of Victoria for the present year was issued early in January. It contains the names of twenty-seven persons added during the year 1885; the majority of these have passed the major examination of Victoria. The names of seventeen persons who died during the year were removed from the Register. Twenty-three apprentices have registered their indentures, and certificates under the Sale and Use of Poisons Act have been issued to sixty-two persons. Copies of the Register can be obtained on application at the office of the Pharmacy Board; price, 2s. 6d.

A BANQUET is to be given by the Scientific Societies to Mr. J. Bosisto, M.P., the President of the Commission appointed by the Victorian Government to represent Victoria at the Indian and Colonial Exhibition, on 25th inst., at Scott's Hotel. Amongst the gentlemen who will assemble to do honour to Mr. Bosisto will be representatives of the Government, the Presidents of the Royal Society, the Medical and British Medical Societies, the President of the Pharmaceutical and Microscopical Societies, the President of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, Mr. R. J. Ellery, Drs. Nield and Fulton, His Honour Mr. Justice Kerferd, the Mayors of Melbourne and Richmond, and other prominent citizens.

New South Wales.

At recent medical examinations in England and Scotland several of our colonials have been distinguishing themselves. Mr. T. J. Henry, late of Sydney, passed with honours in his second year examination at the College of Physicians and Surgeons; and Mr. H. H. Marshall passed his final examinations as physician and surgeon in the same city. Mr. Henry is a son of our esteemed friend, Mr. J. Henry, who has a pharmacy in George-street. Mr. Marshall is a son of Dr. W. Marshall, of College-street, and will soon arrive in this colony to assist his father in his extensive practice. Mr. F. W. Hall, an ex-student of the Technical College, succeeded in carrying off the open scholarship in science at Guy's Hospital, and honours in botany at the London University. Mr. M. Hargrave has passed a very creditable minor examination at the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain examination.

New regulations have been passed by the senate of the University of this city respecting the Belmore medal. They are as follow:—"1. Candidates must be of at least two years' standing, and must be under the standing of doctor or master in any faculty. 2. Candidates must have attended lectures in and pass examinations in the following subjects:—Chemistry (inorganic, and organic, with laboratory practice), geology, botany, zoology, and physiology. 3. They will be also required to pass an examination in agriculture, and in the practical analysis of soils, manures, &c." This medal was established by the Earl of Belmore, with a view to encouraging the study of agricultural chemistry, but hitherto comparatively little difficulty seems to have been experienced by candidates who aspired to the honour of competing for this prize.

Messrs. Elliott Bros. are certainly to be congratulated upon their escape from a very serious loss in the recent fire that took place at their warehouse, Pitt-street, in the latter end of last year; and in their new premises no pains have been spared to make the buildings as free from danger in this respect as possible. Fire buckets are liberally distributed throughout the building; a special water service is laid on to every floor, and hose always attached ready for use. All dangerous chemicals have special fireproof rooms or cases, and the greatest caution is displayed by the employés in carrying out the work of the establishment to prevent the recurrence of a fire in the new warehouses in O'Connell and Bligh-streets. In fact, although the daily press gave great praise to the firemen for their exertions, had it not been for the presence of mind and prompt conduct of the employés there can be no doubt that the conflagration would have assumed a far more serious aspect. Immediately upon the alarm being given that the cellar was on fire two of the employés placed the iron covers over the street grates of the cellars and closed all the doors. A third telephoned to the superintendent of fire brigades, and a fourth, upon the arrival of the firemen, led them with the hose down to the seat of the fire, which consisted of a stack of ether drums, collodion, vaseline, essential oils, chloroform, and similar substances, and after about an hour's hard work the last trace of fire was quenched. An immense crowd collected to witness what they thought would be an awful spectacle, as it was not anticipated that so easy a victory would have been obtained over the flames. The amount of actual damage done by fire and water was comparatively small.

The oldest pharmacy in this city recently recorded its 50th anniversary. The establishment is owned by Mr. Frank Senior, and we are informed that the records of business done half a century ago, as well as prescriptions written at that time, are among the papers of the business. Many of these will be regarded as interesting reliques of many physicians who played a prominent part in the social and political history of our colony. The patronage of his Excellency Lord Carrington has been bestowed upon this establishment, and Mr. Frank Senior, though now well stricken in years, still is characterised by his close attention to business, and is one of the few druggists who take a deep interest in the public affairs of this colony, he being an active member of the City of Sydney Improvement Board, the Board of Directors of the Sydney Hospital, the Randwick Asylum, and the Benevolent Asylum.

The oldest pharmacist in this colony is said to be Mr. W. T. Pinhey, J.P., the secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society of this colony. After forty-five years' experience of the trade in this colony, we may surmise that our venerable friend has seen many changes.

The *Evening News* of the 8th inst. states that Mr. Pinhey has been called upon by the Minister for Justice to furnish an explanation of his conduct at a recent inquest, at which he acted in the capacity of acting coroner. The inquest was upon the body of the late A. W. H. Senior, a member of the late New Guinea exploration party. The deceased gentleman was drowned in Sydney Harbour on New Year's Day.

We regret having to record the decease of Mr. Hyam Israel, late dispenser to the Sydney Hospital. The deceased gentleman was an active member of the Chemists' Assistants' Association; and the news of his death, from typhoid fever, will be received by many with great regret, as he was well known and highly esteemed by a large circle of friends.

Mr. H. Armstrong, of Hay, Wilcannia, and Silverton is adding to his establishments a pharmacy at 140 George-street north, and from the well-known

business ability of this gentleman, and the success that has attended his former ventures, we may expect another flourishing and handsome pharmacy. The managing assistant is Mr. C. A. Kerans, formerly of the Mudgee Dispensary.

The Act of Incorporation of the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales will shortly be presented to the House for its consideration in detail, and the present members of the council appear very sanguine of its adoption as an Act of legislation; but there are some who think that the hardships under which we labour in this colony will not be lessened by the passing of such an Act. What is urgently required is an Act that will abolish the present system of procedure regarding the control of the sale of poisons, and positively prevent any person from trading as a chemist and druggist unless duly registered as such.

The legal proceedings instituted by Mr. Beehag against W. H. Soul and Co. resulted in a verdict for the plaintiff of £25. The claim was £200 for damages sustained through wrongful dispensing of a prescription by the defendant's assistant. The case caused a great sensation amongst the druggists in this city, as the firm of Soul and Co. are considered to be at variance with the interests of chemists and druggists. But as long as any person can open as a chemist and druggist in New South Wales, and no person can deny them the right so to do, Messrs. Soul and Co. have as much right to trade as chemists and druggists as the most highly qualified pharmacist in the land. They have no right to sell poisons, it is true, and this they never claim, and always refer a customer who requires poison to the nearest druggist's shop where poisons are sold. But what an absurdity to allow persons to dispense poisons, and yet refuse them the right to sell threepenny worth of oxalic acid, and yet such is the law in New South Wales. We do not doubt but that Messrs. Soul and Co.'s dispensers are competent to perform their duties, and that the accident was a misadventure, caused more by carelessness than through ignorance. What is necessary in the interests of the trade is an Act similar to that in force in Victoria, and it is of no use for druggists of this colony to lament the hardness of their lot unless they are prepared to stand up for their rights and agitate for the passing of an Act that shall prevent any person calling himself a dispensing chemist, or prescribing and consulting chemist, or chemist and druggist, or pharmaceutical chemist, unless he be duly qualified by professional education and examination.

At the present time our colony is overrun with medical adventurers, and in a land where any man may style himself doctor, and practice as a physician, it is not to be wondered at if the pharmacists should fare any better. What is needed is radical reform. The Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales has proved itself unequal to the task of grappling with the difficulty of the situation, and, unless the trade is prepared to undertake the work of its own protection, it must learn to bear uncomplainingly the hardships under which it labours at the present time.

In the present unsatisfactory state of affairs a society to regulate matters distinctly outside the province of the Pharmaceutical Society would be a great boon. A Chemists and Druggists' Association, to regulate hours, prices, &c., if it could be formed, would offer great advantages to every one. The present hours in Sydney are simply barbarous. What necessity can there possibly be to keep men working from fourteen to sixteen hours a day, in many instances Sunday included, or at least every alternate one, besides night duty.

There are a good many changes going on just now.

Mr. Jones, of Crown-street, Surrey Hills, has purchased the business lately opened by Mr. T. Ellis in Market-street, and is having it altered and fitted up

in a most attractive style. Mr. Jones' brother, who has been managing his business at Suva, Fiji, is severing his connection with him. Mr. French, a gentleman lately out from London, is going down to manage it for him, with the intention, I believe, of purchasing, if suitable. Mr. Joseph, another new arrival, has taken the management of Mr. Jones' Crown-street business.

Mr. Jefferey, who was some time with Messrs. T. & J. Williams, of Newtown, has opened at Granville, and is, I am told, doing very well.

Mr. J. T. Pook, of Young, sails shortly for England, leaving Mr. S. J. Parke in charge.

Mr. Pallin, of George-street, has opened a new pharmacy in Elizabeth-street, Redfern, under the high sounding title of the Carrington Pharmacy.

Mr. Bishop, who has a business in Balmain, has taken charge of W. H. Soul & Co's. dispensing department. He, however, is still carrying on at Balmain. Mr. Ward, lately in charge, is going into business on his own account.

Mr. J. H. Pye, who recently passed his examination, is opening at Croydon.

Mr. D. C. Nallander, of Crown-street, is looking out for a purchaser for his business, with a view of proceeding to England to study medicine.

Mr. Powell, of Paddington, who has been away ruralising for two or three weeks, has returned, looking very much better for the trip.

Mr. Sadler, of William-street, has in projection extensive alterations of his shop, which, when completed, will be one of the finest in city or suburbs.

SYDNEY BOARD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

REGULATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.

AT the examination held in December, 1885, two scholarships, each of the annual value of £75, and tenable for three years, were open to competition.

In order to obtain one of these scholarships a student must have attended satisfactorily for two years the classes in one of the following subjects, viz., architecture, applied mechanics, chemistry, physics, or mining, and must obtain the greatest number and not less than 90 per cent. of the possible marks at the coming examination. He must then pass the matriculation examination at the Sydney University, and, subject to his attendance at lectures there for B.Sc. or B.E., the money will be paid him quarterly.

It must be distinctly understood that inattention to lectures at the University, or misconduct, or inability to pass the annual examinations at the University, may, at the discretion of the Board of Technical Education, be deemed sufficient reason to withdraw the scholarship. It will, however, be optional with the Board to require attendance at lectures in the Sydney University or some Technical School in the United Kingdom.

At the annual examination in December, 1885, ten scholarships of £15 each were open to competition.

In order to obtain one of these scholarships a student must have satisfactorily attended for twelve months the course of instruction, and pass the examination in one of the following subjects:—Agriculture, applied mechanics, architecture, chemistry, design, domestic economy, *materia medica*, mineralogy, mining, or physics, including practical electricity. He must obtain the greatest number and not less than 80 per cent. of the possible marks, and he must also pass a satisfactory examination in—

- (a) English, parsing, and dictation.
- (b) Geometry, up to and including Euclid Book I. prop 8.
- (c) Arithmetic, simple and compound rules, and proportion.

The student must continue to attend during 1886 the classes required to obtain the certificate of industrial expert, and the money will be paid quarterly, subject to satisfactory attention to college work.

These scholarships are open alike to city and country students.

The following are the questions used at the December examination :—

MATERIA MEDICA AND PHARMACY.

Time allowed, two hours.

1st year students (juniors) to attempt all the questions.

1. Enumerate the official preparations of *cinchona calisaya*. How is quinae sulphas prepared?
2. Name the ammoniated tinctures, and state in what form the ammonia is used in each.
3. What are the tests for carbolic acid?
4. Name the official wines, giving also the proportion of the active ingredients.
5. What preparations are obtained from *rumeriana officinalis*? How is valerianate of soda manufactured?

2nd year students (seniors) to attempt all the questions.

1. What is distillation? Name the pharmacopœial preparations made by this process.

2. With regard to *nux vomica* and *catechu*, state—

- (a) Their botanical origin;
- (b) Their physical properties and active principles, and
- (c) Their pharmacopœial preparation.

3. State the composition in English, and omitting quantities, of the following preparations :—

- (1.) Pil. rhei co. (2.) Liq. arsenicalis. (3.) Tr. camph. co. (4.) Mist. cretae. (5.) Lot. hydrarg. nig. (6.) Pil. saponis co.

4. Give the strengths of the active ingredients, and the doses, of the following preparations :—

Pil. aloes et myrrhae, mel. boracis, vinum antimoniale, troch. ipecacuanhae et morphiae, pulv. jalapae compositus, syrup scillæ, lin. belladonnae, pil. colocynth. co., pil. phosphori, and pil. scammonii co.

5. What are the formulæ and properties of chloroform and chloral hydrate; how can they be prepared, and how can the former be obtained from the latter?

PHYSICS.

I. Sound. Light and Heat.

INSTRUCTIONS.—Put the number of the question before your answer. You are only permitted to attempt eight questions. The value attached to each question is the same.

Three hours are allowed.

1. A man is standing in a railway carriage as it approaches the platform while the brake is suddenly applied; he is now jerked in a certain direction. State the cause of this, and the direction in which the man would fall.
2. A piece of copper wire weighing 228·28 grains is suspended in pure water from the arm of a delicate pair of scales, whereupon it is found to weigh 225·68 grains. From these figures you are required to calculate the specific gravity of copper.

3. Give the sketch of a simple piece of apparatus to show "that the volume of a gas varies inversely with the pressure."

4. Two cardboard tubes, 4 inches in diameter and 4 feet long, are placed at an angle of 90 deg. with each other. At the ends nearest each other is fixed a tin plate at an angle of 45 deg. At the end of one tube is placed a watch, and I apply my ear to the other. The ticking of the watch is distinctly heard. Explain this.

5. I have a tuning fork, which, when sounded, is said to vibrate 256 times per second. How can I verify this and ascertain the particular musical note produced?

6. A piece of red cloth is said to be red owing to the absorption of certain waves. What waves are absorbed? Give your reasons for the appearances presented by a piece of black velvet and a sheet of white paper.

7. The window of a small room is closed so that no light is allowed to enter except through an aperture one inch in diameter; against this aperture is placed first a double convex lens and then a flint glass prism. Describe what will happen in both cases.

8. Describe the compound microscope.

9. A flat cake of beeswax about three-quarters of an inch thick is placed on a stand six inches high. Upon it are placed four solid metal balls of copper, iron, lead, and silver, which had been equally heated together at a temperature of 165 deg. C. Describe the order in which these balls penetrate and fall through the wax.

10. What do you understand by the term "boiling point," and how does pressure affect the boiling point of a liquid.

11. Explain the production of cold by evaporation.

12. Two copper kettles—one brightly polished, the other covered with soot—are both filled with water at 98 deg. C., and allowed to stand for half an hour at the ordinary temperature of the air. What happens to each, and why?

13. Pieces of ice are wrapped (1) in folds of flannel, (2) in calico, (3) in a linen cloth. Which material preserves the ice the longest?

14. Explain the phenomenon of dew.

ADVANCED PHYSICS.

INSTRUCTIONS.—Put the number of the question before your answer. You are only permitted to attempt eight questions. The value is the same for each question.

Three hours are allowed.

1. A piece of metal weighed in air 7·3919 grammes; when immersed in water it only weighed 7·0089 grammes. What metal do these figures indicate, and what is the operation involved?

2. What is the unit of mass usually adopted in science, and explain how it is derived?

3. Show that while the mass remains constant the velocity generated in a unit of time varies as the force employed. Describe suitable apparatus to prove this.

4. Two plane mirrors are hinged together at various angles and a luminous body placed between them. How may the number of images be determined?

5. Give two of the methods by which the velocity of light was ascertained.

6. A ray of light strikes a concave mirror in three ways—

(a) From its geometrical centre.

(b) From the principal focus.

(c) From a point infinitely distant.

How do these rays obey the laws of reflection?

7. How would you experimentally determine the indices of refraction of water, bisulphide of carbon, and turpentine?
8. Enumerate the laws of vibration of strings. Give a sketch of the apparatus employed to prove the same.
9. What experimental proof can you adduce to show that the number of vibrations in the ordinary musical scale is as follows:—
- $$n, \frac{9}{8}n, \quad \frac{5}{4}n, \quad \frac{4}{5}n, \quad \frac{3}{2}n, \quad \frac{5}{3}n, \quad \frac{15}{8}n, \quad 2n. ?$$
10. Mention what facts you can to show the analogy between light and sound.
11. A bell is struck first *in vacuo*, then in air, in hydrogen, and in carbonic acid gas. What difference may be noted?
12. Describe some means of measuring the resistance of a piece of brass wire 2 m.m. thick and 30 centimètres long.
13. Show by means of a diagram how the deflection of a magnet may be made use of in measuring magnetic force.
14. What is meant by *saturation* when applied to magnetism? Explain also the terms temporary, permanent, and residual magnetism.

South Australia.

ADELAIDE, 6th January, 1886.

As most of your readers will doubtless be aware, there has been some little stir of late in this colony concerning pharmaceutical matters. Chiefly owing to the exertions of Mr. Main, of King William-street, a meeting was held in August last, at which most of the city and suburban chemists were present. It was convened for the purpose of considering the invitation of delegates to the Sydney Conference then pending, and also of discussing the desirability of founding a Pharmaceutical Society in this colony. After deciding that to send delegates would be premature, those present unanimously agreed to form the nucleus of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia, and a committee was appointed to frame rules for its conduct, etc. At subsequent meetings these rules were discussed and passed, after some alterations had been agreed to, and the election of officers for the present year took place, resulting in Mr. Harrison, of Rundle-street, being chosen as president; Mr. Grundy, Hindley-street, vice-president; Mr. Poole, King William-street, hon. treasurer; Mr. Main, King William-street, hon. secretary; and Messrs. Grummet, Parker, and White for the remaining members of the committee.

Of course, up to the present, little has been done except initiatory work, but as soon as this has been disposed of it is intended that subjects of pharmaceutical interest shall be considered, with a view to stimulating the study of such, especially among the younger members, while the trade interests of pharmacy are also not to be overlooked at the meetings of the society. At present these meetings are held in Jackman's Rooms, but it is proposed that a private room be taken for this purpose, where also the society could place such specimens, books of reference, etc., as it is hoped will be accumulated for the use of its members.

A noticeable feature in the earlier meetings was the unanimity of opinion as to the inadvisability of a Pharmacy Act. It was generally considered that at present such an Act would not benefit the chemists of the colony, and it was

determined that no such State aid should be sought, but that the society should seek to raise the tone of pharmacy by purely voluntary methods, including honorary examinations.

These examinations are to be held half-yearly, and are to consist of a preliminary educational, and one somewhat similar in character to the English minor, and it is hoped that our younger members will endeavour to qualify themselves by passing them.

An effort of the society to bring about uniformity of prices among chemists has met with but a very partial success; the competition of stores prevented some from favouring this, and the free-trade opinions of others kept them aloof, so that, except in a few leading lines, things remain as before. While upon this theme it may be said that, in spite of the increased tariff, most articles are sold at the old prices.

Most chemists having become members, and many assistants having entered as associates, the Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia may be considered fairly started, and although the last founded of such institutions in the colonies, yet we hope it will be no less successful than its contemporaries have been, working with them in all those things that tend to improve pharmacy.

Mr. Christopher Graham Smith, a well-known and wealthy farmer, residing on the Penola-road, has died through taking poison. It is supposed that the act was suicidal. The deceased was a considerable holder of property on both sides of the border.

Professor Custance and Mr. Brown, the conservator of forests, will shortly leave for Melbourne to give evidence there before the Royal Commission on Vegetable Products. Doctor Schomburg has also been asked to attend, but is unable to accept the invitation.

Queensland.

THE Registrar of the Pharmacy Board of Queensland reports that the examinations which were to have taken place in December last, at Brisbane, were not able to be held in consequence of the delay in getting the regulations passed and approved by the Governor-in-Council.

The *Pharmaceutical Register* of Queensland is now in course of preparation, and will shortly be issued.

The syllabus for the examinations of the Pharmacy Board of Queensland is to be as nearly as possible on the lines that are in operation in Victoria.

The prompt and ready manner in which the Pharmacy Board of Victoria have furnished, on application, all information asked for, is much appreciated, as they have the experience which we lack.

There was a prosecution under the Trade Marks Act on the 14th December for imitating a bottle with the words "Hempsted and Co." The decision of the Court was reserved.

A woman named Kate Gawthorn was charged at the Brisbane Police-court with having set fire to the shop of Mr. J. W. Ayscough, chemist, of Petrie-terrace. After a lengthy examination, the defendant was discharged, there being not sufficient evidence to substantiate the case.

I regret to announce the death of Mr. Charles Davis, who was in business for many years in Brisbane.

No fresh cases of cholera have developed amongst the passengers by the *Dorunda* during the fortnight.

The total quantity of sugar exported from the colony from June, 1884, to 1st of January of this year, was 32,092 tons.

Tasmania.

10th January, 1886.

IN the Australian colonies and New Zealand pharmacy, during the last ten years, has advanced with gigantic strides, keeping pace in its progress onwards with the social politics of each colony. In the colonies generally, as the political education has been added to by experience, we see that justice has been done to each profession, whether law or medicine, and the educational standard raised equal to the strain likely to be imposed by a dependent public. Thus we find that those being admitted to the ranks of the profession in Victoria, New South Wales, Adelaide, and Brisbane are superior in scientific education to those who have preceded them; but when comparing the past with the present pharmacist we do not mean to disparage the scientific knowledge of those who, having gallantly struggled in the face of many difficulties—ever present to us all—to perfect themselves in all branches of the profession, have been the means of raising the status of the chemist to its present position.

In Australia we find the pharmaceutical chemist holds a good position, and certainly a more respectable title than that by which he is designated in Tasmania, viz., "Dealer in Poisons." Such has been the title conferred by the law since 1835, and the main body of this bill has not been altered since. Briefly, the main point is that "none but those who have passed an examination before the Board of Examiners (consisting of medical men only) shall retail drugs or poisons, unless more than four miles from any registered 'Dealer in Poisons' or chemist." Tasmania thus was the first to legislate on our behalf, but has been the last to advance. Lately the southern chemists, having formed an association, desired to improve their present status, and with that object forwarded proposals to the northern society asking their assistance in passing through Parliament a Pharmacy Bill similar to those in existence in the sister colonies. But, unexpectedly, they were met with opposition, on the grounds that, "since the present Act prevented other than a registered dealer in poisons retailing drugs and patents, they were amply protected, at the same admitting that the present mode of examination by medical men was unsatisfactory, and the period of acquaintance with the business before examination too short." From the influential support promised by the Government there would have been no doubt, had the northern society co-operated, that the management of the profession would have been in our own hands by the present time. In the present year the southern society will make another attempt to overcome these scruples of the northern society, and we earnestly trust to be successful. In my next I hope to deal with the objections raised against this course being taken.

Dr. Smart, Dr. Perkins, Mr. George Crisp, and Mr. Henry Hunter have been asked to form the Central Board of Health under the Health Act.

The Court of Medical Examiners at Hobart have registered the following persons as qualified dispensers:—Jas. Turnbull (Certificate of Pharmacy Board of Victoria); Michael Mason (by examination).

New Zealand.

PHARMACY BOARD OF NEW ZEALAND.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

A MEETING of the Pharmacy Board was held at Auckland on 25th November, 1885; the president, Mr. G. Aickin, in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION.

The application of Messrs. A. H. Gillman and J. Fitzpatrick were deferred for further information.

An application from Mr. A. C. Symth to be registered on the certificate of the Society of Apothecaries, London, was refused, as the certificate is not recognised by regulation, and until these were altered the Board had no power to accept it.

RECIPROCITY WITH THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

A letter was read from the secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales, requesting to be informed what steps could be taken to obtain reciprocity and an interchange of certificates. After some discussion, it was resolved to reply—

(1.) That a similar communication from the Pharmacy Board of New Zealand to the Pharmacy Society of New South Wales in November, 1884, had met with no answer.

(2.) That with every desire now to discuss the matter of reciprocity, the Board has not the power to accept the certificate of the Pharmacy Society of New South Wales, until, by amendment of the New Zealand law, regulations can be made.

EXAMINATIONS.

At the fourth standard examinations on 21st October there were six candidates; two only passed, viz.:—

				Percentage of possible marks.
Mactauren, J. S., Auckland.	...	...	...	90·0
Walker, Wm., Christchurch	...	...	...	89·3

The four following failed to satisfy the examiners:—

- R. D. Hanlon, Dunedin.
- A. G. S. Maxwell, Auckland.
- F. G. Cooper, Auckland.
- S. Donaldson, Auckland.

8th January.

"THE PHARMACY ACT 1880" of this colony says:—"From and after the passing of this Act it shall not be lawful for any person, not duly registered as a pharmaceutical chemist according to the provisions of this Act, to assume or use the title of pharmaceutical chemist, pharmacist, chemist and druggist, dispensing chemist, or other words of similar import, in any part of New Zealand, or to assume, use, or exhibit any name, title, or sign implying that he is registered under this Act, or that he is a member of the said society; and if any person, not

being duly registered under this Act, shall assume or use the title of pharmaceutical chemist, pharmaceutist, chemist and druggist, dispensing chemist, or exhibit any name or title or sign implying that he is a person registered under this Act, or that he is a member of the said society, every such person shall be liable to a penalty of five pounds"! So much for the penalties for not being duly registered under "The Pharmacy Act 1880;" but so weak and inoperative has this clause been found to be that there are in this town at least ten pharmaceutical free lances. The Pharmacy Board of New Zealand, being fully conscious of the present laxity of the Act, caused to be drawn up and submitted to Parliament last session a bill intituled "An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act 1880," which, among others, contained the following clauses:—

"Any person not being a registered pharmaceutical chemist of New Zealand who carries on, or attempts to carry on, the business of a chemist and druggist, or a homoeopathic chemist, by keeping an open shop for the compounding and dispensing of the prescriptions of legally qualified practitioners, after thirty-first day of December, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, shall be liable to a penalty of not exceeding *five pounds for each offence.*"

"No pharmaceutical chemist shall carry on business in more places than one, unless each additional place of business is placed under the personal management of a duly registered chemist, who shall give it the same attention as his principal is required to give to his head place of business, under a penalty of *fifty pounds.*"

From these clauses it will be seen that our registered *confrères* are fully alive to the necessity of making the pharmaceutical calling one in which the public shall have some kind of guarantee that the dispenser of medicine shall have, at least, some rudimentary knowledge of his work. Yet, notwithstanding that regulations very much on the same lines are the law in most civilised communities, the New Zealand M.H.R.'s could not see their way to give such a bill their sanction. Perhaps it may be accounted for by the fact that our elected law-makers are too occupied quarrelling over "the loaves and fishes" for their respective constituencies.

The last examination papers of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria have lately come to hand. The time allowed for the paper for the certificate of the College of Pharmacy in chemistry is two hours. It consists of twelve questions, five of which run as follows:—1. Describe the process for the continuous manufacture of ether. 2. Describe the process for the manufacture of *spirits of nitre!* 3. Describe the manufacture of chloroform. 4. Describe the manufacture of spt. am. co. 10. Give a short description of the general principles of the atomic theory and atomic proportions.

If the students of the college are able, in two hours, to answer these five questions, and also, in a measure, "to floor" the remaining seven, they must be exceptionally clever young men.

Surely it would be better, in a chemistry, paper to cast the questions in such a form that the examiners might be able to estimate if the candidate was clear as to the rationale of the various processes, and this would apparently be best shown by the use of symbolic notation in the answers. From the way in which the questions are worded the student need only commit to memory the P.B. directions, and on the day of examination place on *paper as quickly as possible*, if he would get through the whole of his mnemonic store, the result of his learning by heart.

Again, where will the pharmaceutical tyro find a process for the manufacture of *spirits of nitre?* Not in any of his text books, but in the old London Pharmacopœias, where it is ordered to be made with spirit of wine and nitric

acid, and the distillation continued until the product has a s: g: of 0·850, and is then known as *sweet spirit of nitre*.

The tenth question, which practically requires the examinee to review shortly the whole of the atomic theory, would argue a skill on his part in literary condensation, *i.e.*, "boiling down," that few men possess. Attfield gives seven pages to the subject; Roscoe, in his lessons in Elementary Chemistry, nearly as many, and, of course, whole volumes have been written on the subject without doing full justice to the matter.

Some few copies of the new Pharmacopœia have reached here, and, from a very cursory view of its contents, seems to be a great advance on its predecessors; the changed nomenclature of many of the salts is a distinct scientific gain, inasmuch that it indicates, in a measure, the chemical composition.

Perhaps in no town in New Zealand is pharmacy more loyally pursued than in Auckland, and the number of elegant pharmacies in this city is amazing, the population being considered. "The pharmacy" conducted by Mr. Aiekin will compare more than favourably with the majority of places of business in the old country; and Mr. Edson, a member of the Pharmacy Board, is erecting a stone building that bids fair, from an architectural standpoint, to equal anything of the kind in this city. It is possible that a school of mines will be shortly inaugurated at the Thames, the chief mining centre in this North Island. This, perhaps, may lead to a school of pharmacy being established in one of the principal towns in this colony. There is very little doubt that such an institution is sorely needed, and perhaps the school of mines being commenced so near us, a spirit of emulation may bring it about.

At a meeting of the Mornington Borough Council of Dunedin, held on the 10th December, the mayor (Mr. John English) was presented by the council with an illuminated address on the occasion of his retirement from the position after occupying it for two successive years. Mr. English is well known in connection with the New Zealand Drug Company, and is one of the members of the Pharmacy Board of New Zealand. The presentation was made by Councillor Caffin. Councillors Nicolson, Cahill, Frapwell, Carey, and Morrison also expressed themselves in appreciative terms of the services Mr. English had rendered the borough.

The proposal to hold an Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference in Melbourne in October next has met with general approval in all the centres in New Zealand, and there is no doubt that this colony will be well represented. It should have taken place long since, and would have smoothed away many of the difficulties we now labour under.

Notes and Abstracts.

THE TREATMENT OF SUNSTROKE.

DURING the last hot weather of July and August of the present year, according to the report of Dr. Horwitz, a very large number of cases of sunstroke were treated at the Pennsylvania Hospital with remarkable success. The plan of treatment was almost uniform. It consists of putting the patient at once in the ice-water bath, administering digitalis and antipyrine, morphine, and, where convulsions occur, musk in 10-grain doses by the rectum every half-hour. The effect of the latter drug in subduing the convulsions is said to have been extremely pronounced. So far as our recollection serves, its employment is a novelty in thermic fever. The results of the use of antipyrine were also very satisfactory: in only one case where it was administered did it fail to keep

back the rebound of the temperature which is so apt to follow the fall produced by the cold bath. The employment of antipyrine in sunstroke, we may say, is not altogether new, it having been reported upon favourably in New York.

There is one point in the treatment of sunstroke to which all hospital authorities should have their attention earnestly directed. Many years ago, Dr. H. C. Wood, in experimenting upon animals, found that if the dog or rabbit was immersed in the cold bath so soon as it became unconscious, it recovered; but if it was allowed to lie for a few moments, the withdrawal of the heat almost always failed to bring about recovery. Often the animal would become conscious; but paraplegia and other paralytic symptoms would remain, and death soon come. Clinical experience abundantly affirms this. It is certain that minutes, even seconds, are in the cases of sunstroke of the utmost importance. With the ordinary covered ambulances that are now employed by our hospitals there would be no difficulty in stripping the patient, at least to his underclothes, and rubbing him with ice, administering antipyrine hypodermically, etc., etc., whilst *en route* for the hospital. During hot weather every ambulance sent out on telegraphic summons from our hospitals should be provided with a resident physician, ice, and all necessary appliances. In this way we believe that many lives would be saved. In our opinion a case of sunstroke treated immediately would very rarely prove fatal.

COCAINE IN HAY FEVER.

DR. G. H. SIMMONS, of Lincoln, Neb., has used cocaine for the relief of hay fever with marked success in several instances (*Medical Record*, 19th September, 1885). He relates the following case:—"A farmer came into my office about three weeks ago, and, in a discouraged manner, asked me if there was nothing I could give him to relieve him of that terrible suffering and annoyance. His eyes were bloodshot, and his looks showed that he suffered all that he claimed to. Every little while he would have an attack of sneezing, which lasted three or four minutes, after which there would be profuse perspiration. He complained of great shortness of breath, exhaustion, and dimness of sight. There was intense itching of the nares, frontal headache, and severe pain in the eyes. It was the eye-trouble that suggested cocaine to my mind, and as I had only a few minutes before been using a two per cent. solution in a case of cystitis (and with success), I, without hesitancy, concluded to try it in this case. I dropped 2 or 3 minims of the solution into each eye, and the effect was almost miraculous. I then with a camel's-hair pencil applied a few drops to each nostril and well back into the posterior nares. The relief was immediate and complete. I gave my patient 2 drachms of the solution, and instructed him how to use it. I saw him again in ten days, and his praises in favour of the remedy were very profuse. He had used it about three times a day, and thus kept off all symptoms of his annual trouble. It was the first time, he said, for years that he had been free from it during the latter part of July and the first two or three weeks of August. A second case in which the same remedy was used was hardly as severe, but the relief was just as complete and satisfactory. The patient is a married lady, who has never found relief before without going either to the lakes or to the mountains. In this case I used a four per cent. solution." Dr. Simmons has also employed cocaine in a five per cent. solution in equal parts of vaseline and castor-oil, as recommended by Dr. Gelston, of Limerick. He was successful, but, nevertheless, prefers the simple aqueous solution. He notes that Mr. John Watson, of London, has obtained relief in his own case by the use of tablets of cocaine inserted into each nostril.

LIEBIG'S EXTRACT OF MEAT.

THE value of this world-renowned preparation has so frequently been either overrated or again questioned altogether, that the remarks of R. B. Lehmann on this subject appearing in the *Archiv für Hygiene*, 1885, 249-290, will be read with interest. The following represent their summary:— Some time ago Remmerich created a widespread surprise by announcing that Liebig's extract of meat partook of a poisonous nature. The latter he referred to the presence of potassium salts in the extract, and demonstrated the identity of the potassium intoxication in general, and the symptoms produced by Liebig's extract. Experiments with the extract instituted on various animals, and especially on rabbits, showed that comparatively minute quantities of the extract (two teaspoonfuls of a concentrated solution) sufficed to kill the latter by cardiac paralysis. Carnivorous animals being likewise subject to the toxic action of the extract, Remmerich concluded that in man a cardiac paralysis may likewise ensue, and that, of course, such an issue would be all the more possible in ailing, debilitated, or juvenile individuals. Although these seemingly improbable objections to Liebig's extract were almost wholly removed by the researches of Bunge, the French scientist persisted in disparaging this famous German article. And to refute all opposition on a scientific ground, Lehmann instituted exhaustive investigations, and concluded:

1. That neither extract of meat (*i.e.*, meat-broth) nor the salts of potassium ingested once by a healthy person, even in a larger dose, exerted any specific influence on the frequency, magnitude, or regularity of the pulse.
2. That the increase of cardiac pressure noted by Remmerich as following upon the ingestion of the broth and extract referred probably to a reflex augmentation of the pulse, originating from the digestive track, and proven respecting all salts, and not to any specific potassium action.
3. That in rats and cats even excessive quantities of the extract (one per cent. of the body-weight) did not produce any deleterious effects, no matter whether the animals were kept hungry, poorly or well nourished.
4. In two infants, greatly reduced by malnutrition and confinement, the same negative results were obtained.
5. That Liebig's extract of meat possessed no especial value as an article of nutrition, though, like all beef-teas, it acts as a digestive stimulant.

COCAINE IN THE MORPHINE HABIT.

SMIDT and Rank, physicians of a prominent German morphine institute, confirm the value of cocaine in the cure of the morphine habit (*Berl. Klin. Woch.*, 14th September, 1885). Their testimony and conclusions are formulated as follow :

1. Cocaine is a highly useful and almost indispensable factor in the cure of the morphine habit. It facilitates and shortens the latter materially, without exerting any untoward secondary influence upon the patient.
2. The principle of the cure consists in exhibiting morphine in decreasing and cocaine in increasing doses.
3. Cocaine acts best when exhibited sub-cutaneously in a five per cent. watery solution.
4. The ordinary dose is $\frac{1}{2}$ gr., and may be increased to $1\frac{1}{2}$ gr., though 3grs. ought not to be exceeded.
5. A cocaine habit has never been noted to occur.

COCAINE IN SEA-SICKNESS AND CHOLERA NOSTRAS.

ALTHOUGH all bacteriological researches have hitherto failed to discover the "bacillus of sea-sickness," the long-looked-for infallible remedy and even preventive of this wretched malady is at last claimed to have been secured. The "claim-everything" policy which has of late infested professional journalism is to be totally abandoned before we can again accept with confidence a therapeutic commendation from every quarter. "They have been weighed and found wanting" can with propriety be said of most therapeutic novelties; but as the remedy eulogised in sea-sickness is cocaine (*vide report of Dr. Manassein, of St. Petersburg, in the Berlin Klin. Wochenschrift of 31st August, 1885*), and this drug has asserted nearly all of its alleged virtues, it may be worth while to give it a trial. The following is the mode of administration, in which the drug in Dr. Manassein's hands has proved a cure and preventive of sea-sickness :

R Cocain. muriatis, gr. ii;
 Spir. vini rectifie., q. s. ad solv.;
 Aquæ dest., fʒv. M.
 S.—fʒi every two or three hours.

The same author reports two cases of cholera nostras marked by symptoms of collapse and such intense vomiting that no medicines could be administered internally. Both cases were relieved by an ice-bag placed upon the medulla oblongata and the administration of cocaine, which was thus rendered admissible.

COLOURING MATTER OF WINE AND OTHER VEGETABLE JUICES.

MR. M. TERRELL, in *L'Union Pharmaceutique* for August, and *Pharm. Journ.*, 19th September, states that the colouring matter of wine and the red colouring matters of plants are almost entirely precipitated from their solutions by excess of hydrochloric acid. The colouring matter is precipitated mixed with an insoluble ulmic matter, but is readily separated from the latter by solution in alcohol. This colouring matter is insoluble in water, but dissolves freely in alcohol, to which it imparts a yellowish red-brown colour. Acids change it to an intense red, but alkalies turn it green and dissolve it, the oxygen of the air soon changing the solution to yellow brown. Ether does not dissolve a trace.

In order to recognise quickly the nature of the red colouring matter contained in any vegetable substance, the author crushes the vegetable matter between leaves of unsized paper, and exposes the coloured paper to ammonia vapour. Operating in this way, he has ascertained the changes in colour which take place with the juices of the following plants: rose changes to bright green; cherry laurel, bright yellow green; dark violet marguerite, dark green; fuchsia, violet petals, green, and sepals, azure blue; geranium, greenish blue; pomegranate flower, violet blue.

Submitted to elementary analysis, the colouring matters of wine and of Campeachy wood and the ulmic matter referred to were found to have the following composition :

		Colouring of wine.		Colouring of Campeachy.		Ulmic matter.
C	...	55·63	...	56·27	...	56·70
H	...	5·50	...	4·68	...	4·73
O	...	38·37	...	39·05	...	38·57

BELLADONNA LEAVES.

DR. SQUIBB, in an interesting article on belladonna leaves, printed in the *Ephemeris* for September, says that when the prevailing colour of the leaves is fairly uniform and fairly green—not brown—when they are free from mustiness, without signs of dampness and fermentation, when there is no admixture of dissimilar leaves, and when seed capsules with ripe seeds are found, the parcel may be accepted as of fair quality. If, he says, the leaves appear to have been all very large, are very green, and no capsules are to be found, the indications are that they were gathered from cultivated plants, harvested when the leaves were most succulent, but not most active. Though very attractive, such leaves are less active than those from the wild plants taken at their maturity. Owing to the difficulty of recognising adulteration, particularly in powdered samples, Dr. Squibb regards an assay process as very desirable. He suggests such a process based on the solubility of the free alkaloid atropine in chloroform and its insolubility in water, and the solubility of its salts in water and their insolubility in chloroform. Fifty grammes of the powdered sample are exhausted by percolation with about 300 c. c. of alcohol (s. g. 0·820), acidulated with about three drops of sulphuric acid. The percolate is evaporated until the odour of alcohol is not perceptible, and 25 c. c. of acidulated water added and thoroughly incorporated with the liquid extract. The whole is transferred to a separator. While acid, the colouring matter is removed by repeated shakings with several portions of chloroform, each of which is drawn off as it settles. The colouring matter having thus been removed, 20 c. c. of fresh chloroform is added, and the whole rendered alkaline by the gradual addition of 6 grammes (or q. s.) of crystallised sodium carbonate. The whole is thoroughly agitated and allowed to separate, when the chloroform holds in solution practically all the atropine as free alkaloid. This is drawn off, and the alkaline water shaken with 10 c. c. or more of chloroform to ensure complete extraction of alkaloid. The chloroform is allowed to evaporate in a tared beaker (a container with upright sides should be used, to prevent a creeping of the liquid). When dry, the beaker is weighed and the tare subtracted, the remainder being accepted as atropine. To prove that the residue is atropine, about 5 c. c. of water and 1 drop of sulphuric acid are added, the alkaloid being dissolved as sulphate. The amount of sulphate, based on the supposition that the residue was entirely atropine, is found by the proportion: 85 : 100 : : weight of alkaloidal residue : $x - x$ representing the weight of atropine sulphate. A solution is prepared representing 2 grains of this supposed atropine sulphate to the fluid ounce. One drop of this 2-grain solution is added to 40 of water, and one drop of the latter dilution to 10 of water, making a strength of 1 to 400. A single drop of this dilute solution is introduced into a person's eye, the lids being held from winking for perhaps 15 or 20 seconds, to prevent them, says the Doctor, from closing and "forcing too much of the drop down the Eustachian tube." [The latter term is doubtless a "lapsus pennæ" for nasal duct.] If the whole product of the assay has been atropine, the pupil will be seen to have enlarged in about 35 minutes to an hour, and will generally in about 1½ hour be nearly double the size of the other. From this maximum it will gradually return to the normal in about 6 hours. Before doubting that the residue was atropine, the solution should be tried on other persons, or stronger solutions made and tried, until one which gives the amount of dilution is reached.

In six assays of powdered leaves of good quality the yield of alkaloid ranged from 0·26 to 0·34 per cent. The conclusion is, therefore, that good powdered belladonna leaves should yield to the above assay process about 3 per cent. of alkaloid.

[Dr. Squibb says that confusion would be avoided and a great improvement made by omitting belladonna leaves from the Pharmacopœia altogether, having the root only officinal and all preparations made from that. Probably no one will question the superiority of the root over the leaves, and a saving of what would otherwise have little market value should be a consideration of little importance when the quality and strength of medicinal preparations are at stake. However, it may be urged by those financially interested in belladonna leaves that no constant ratio can exist between solid extracts and fluid preparations, owing to a variable amount of extractive influencing the quantity of finished product in one case and not in the other, and that therefore good leaves may properly be utilised in the manufacture of solid extract (and, perhaps, even a standardised tincture). The leaves being not so desirable as the root for the manufacture of atropine, the natural result, were the leaves discarded by the Pharmacopœia Commission, would be a material increase in the price and demand for the root.

It might also be argued that due regard to the comparative doses for the preparations of belladonna at present officinal, as given by Dr. Squibb, would obviate any dangers rendered possible by the pharmacopœial recognition of two parts of the belladonna plant. Any objection to Dr. Squibb's proposition to omit the leaves from the Pharmacopœia it would seem must be made from a commercial standpoint. It remains to be seen, however, whether any medical arguments can be advanced in favour of the officinal retention of belladonna leaves.]

THE price of camphor in China rose to 26dol. per picul, it is supposed on account of the cholera.

A SIMPLE but ingenious method of obtaining beeswax in a clean form direct from the comb is recommended by a correspondent of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* (14th November, p. 623). This consists in melting the wax in hot water in a copper; a hoop that will fit into the copper is covered with a cheese cloth and fastened down into it, below the level of the surface of the water. The melted wax rises to the surface through the cloth, and the fire being then allowed to go out, the wax is found on the top of the water in a perfectly clean cake.

AT a meeting of the Edinburgh Botanical Society, held 12th November, Mr. Lindsay, curator of the Edinburgh Botanical Gardens, stated that he had succeeded in germinating the seeds of the celebrated eucalypt growing at Whittingham, East Lothian. This is the first time, it is believed, that home-grown seeds have germinated. The Whittingham eucalypt, now at least forty years old, was stated by Bentham to be *E. viminalis*, but as the result of a careful examination Sir Joseph Hooker has determined it to be *E. Gunnii*. At the same time Mr. Lindsay exhibited two seedling eucalypts, namely, *E. coccifera* and *E. pauciflora*. These have been grown from seeds brought from Australia by Dr. Stewart, who states that he found these species surviving a keen frost which killed all surrounding eucalypts, a fine *E. globulus* fifteen years old being amongst the number.

COCAINE has been used by Dr. Prior, of Bonn, with a certain amount of success in the treatment of whooping cough. For this purpose a solution of 15 to 20 per cent. is used to paint the fauces and upper part of the larynx so as to produce complete anaesthesia in these parts. Inhalation of a 20 per cent. solution did not prove so successful. According to Dr. Labrie this treatment will reduce the fits of coughing in one day from fifteen or twenty to five or six,

and vomiting after food also disappears under the use of cocaine. A 3 per cent. solution used in a similar manner has been recommended by Dr. Græffner for the treatment of nervous cough in hysterical women. The statements concerning the value of cocaine in sea-sickness are confirmed by Dr. A. J. Duffield (*Medical Times*, 21st Nov., p. 709), who writes that twenty years ago he used coca leaves with success in the treatment of this complaint while on a return voyage from Peru.

THE use of various artificial colouring matters in the manufacture of wines, drinks, and other articles of food, which appears to be widely extended in France, has hitherto been condemned, on the ground that the physiological action of these bodies is not known, and that they may possess properties injurious to health. To determine whether or not this be the case, Messrs. Cazeneuve and R. Lépine have made a series of experiments upon man and animals. One of the bodies already examined from this point of view is known in French commerce under the name of *rouge soluble* (*Comptes Rendus*, ci., 823). The result of the trials made with this colouring agent leads the authors to assert that it is absolutely free from any poisonous properties, and that it cannot be considered injurious to health in the small proportion in which it is used. This opinion appears to be confirmed by the fact that the workmen engaged in manufacturing the colour, and who are daily exposed to the inhalation of its dust, do not experience any ill effects.

EXAMINATION OF ESSENTIAL OILS.—For the examination of certain essential oils, chiefly with the view to distinguish the "natural" products from artificial imitations, the author employs an aqueous solution of mercuric nitrate (10 per cent.). Four drops of the essential oil are dissolved in 2 c.c. of alcohol, and 2 to 3 drops of the nitrate solution added. No reduction occurs with the essential oils of laurel (ol. laurocerasi) and bitter almonds. The greater number of oils, however, have a reducing action on the nitrate, and their presence in admixture with the above is indicated by the formation of a grey precipitate of metallic mercury. The artificial bitter almond water also precipitates the solution, and is thus distinguished from the natural. The following oils—viz., ol. cassiae cinn., succini, petræ, linanthracis, vinceæ, vitis viniferae—do not readily reduce the nitrate, but their presence in bitter almond oil is indicated by the opalescence occasioned by diluting with alcohol (6 parts of sp. gr. 0·895). Mustard oil treated under the above conditions gives a slight reduction; the artificial products sold under this name were found, on the other hand, to reduce rapidly, giving a dark-grey precipitate.—*H. Hager, in the Pharmaceutical Journal and Transactions.*

COCAINE, like many other valuable remedial agents, appears to be not altogether free from disadvantages. At a recent meeting of the Clinical Society of London (*British Medical Journal*, p. 971, 21st Nov.) several of the members present expressed the opinion that cocaine, whether in solution or in the form of gelatine discs, had a tendency to cause panophthalmitis. It was also stated that Gräfe had found chronic interstitial keratitis much more common since he had used cocaine. Mr. H. M'Hardy, who had experienced similar results from the use of this alkaloid, remarked that fifteen days appeared to be the longest time that it was safe to keep a solution of cocaine, and that since using quite fresh solutions of 8 per cent. he had had no bad cases. Gelatine discs containing cocaine were found to be hygroscopic, which might account for chemical changes in the alkaloid, since in that state the discs might afford a breeding ground for pathogenic organisms. Dr. Ziem, of Dantzig, has also communicated to the *Allgemeine Zeitung* (*Ibid.*, p. 983) notes of a case in which two drops of 4 per cent. solution of cocaine applied to the eye of a man

caused symptoms of syncope. Dr. Ziem states that seventeen cases have been recorded in ophthalmological literature in which toxic effects have followed the use of cocaine. Dr. F. de Haviland Hall also describes a case (*Lancet*, 21st Nov., p. 946) in which cocaine spray applied to the posterior nares caused laryngeal spasm, which indicates in his opinion that cocaine should be employed with caution. How far these symptoms may be due to idiosyncrasy, and how far to decomposition products of cocaine, will perhaps be determined when our knowledge of the alkaloid itself is more complete than at present. A satisfactory means of preserving the solution and of preventing the hygroscopic character of the gelatine discs are, however, subjects which demand the attention of practical pharmacists.

THE BRITISH PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

THE "Year Book of Pharmacy" issued by the British Pharmaceutical Conference is expected shortly to arrive, and will be distributed by the honorary colonial secretary (Mr. H. Shillinglaw). On this occasion the whole of the copies of the Year Book will be sent to Melbourne, and forwarded from thence to the members of the Conference. This step is taken in consequence of the unsatisfactory manner in which the copies were delivered by post.

Members who have not yet paid their subscriptions for the year are invited to forward the same to the hon. colonial secretary at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, Melbourne, to whom complaints of the non-receipt of the volume should also be addressed.

The subscription is 7s. 6d. per annum, free of all postage or carriage.

Legal and Magisterial.

POISONING CASES.

DR. YOUT held an inquest on the 26th December on the body of George Robert Ellis, a selector, aged 45. Deceased came to Melbourne on the 20th December, and lodged at the Albion Hotel in Bourke-street. Constable Fitzgerald found deceased lying in the Richmond reserve, near the Botanical Bridge, in an apparently drunken state. A bottle of brandy was by his side, and he told Fitzgerald that he had poisoned himself. He was taken to the Melbourne Hospital, where he died 20 minutes after admission. A box containing a mixture of strychnine and lard was found in the lining of his hat. The jury found that the deceased had poisoned himself whilst of unsound mind.

A SAD case of suicide occurred on Tuesday, the 29th December, when a young married woman named Annie Eliza Timms, who had been for some time suffering from acute pain, swallowed a quantity of muriatic acid. She was removed to the hospital, where she died shortly afterwards from the effects of the poison.

A CHILD named Emily Clough, five years old, died on Tuesday, the 29th December, at Wee Wee Rup, Kerang, from drinking gin. She drank it out of a bottle when no one was near.

WE would ask all thoughtful and enterprising chemists to read carefully the advertisement of Frederick Stearns and Co., Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A. These pharmacists, we are informed, are particularly in a condition to relieve the retail chemists of a vast amount of labour and expense. Their plan of supplying pharmacists with handsomely-made preparations to meet the immediate requirements of the sufferer is a good one. Messrs. Rock, Tompsitt and Co. will supply any of these lines.

Correspondence.

THE NEW PHARMACOPÆIA.

To the Editor of the Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.

SIR,—As the British Pharmacopœia of 1885 is now some six months old, and I dare say many of our medical men are anxious to test its value, would it not be wise to inaugurate a movement whereby an initiatory date might be fixed on and preparations be ready of those articles which are to supersede the last B.P. I would also suggest that the prescriber, in cases of altered or new compounds, should add the letters "B.P., 1885," when the dispenser would not then be in doubt as to where to find his formula.

The additions are large, and some very complex and doubtful, especially, I believe, vin. ipecac. (I quote from a synopsis issued in the *C. and D. Diary*.) However, surely there is choice enough now, and our medicos will not be reduced to prescribing "patents" and "foreign proprietaries."

Tusting some action to prevent the confusion that is likely to arise will be taken—I remain, sir, yours, &c.,

G. F. CHAMBERLIN.

Prahran, 15th January, 1886.

THE BRITISH PHARMACOPÆIA.

SIR,—The editors of the British Pharmacopœia, desiring that the work should maintain that practical character which it largely derives from the fact that, as regards its chief preparations, it is a book made by pharmacists for pharmacists, will recommend that extract of opium, so long as it contains 2 per cent. of morphine, need not be made from powdered opium, and that citrate of iron and quinine must yield not 16 but 15 per cent. of alkaloid. They will suggest, in short, that the words "in powder" be omitted from page 164, line 16, and that on page 176, line 35, the word *eight* be substituted by *seven and a half*.

JOHN ATTFIELD.

[We publish this letter as printed in the *Pharmaceutical Journal* of 28th November, but there is evidently a typographical error with regard to the percentage of morphine in extract of opium—the 2 per cent. should be 20—for if opium is to be of the standard of $9\frac{1}{2}$ to $10\frac{1}{2}$ of alkaloid, and as opium yields 50 per cent. of extract, the extract must or ought to contain 20 per cent. of morphine.—ED. *J.P.*]

Births and Deaths.

BIRTH.

GAMBLE.—On the 25th December (Christmas Day), at Darriville, Prahran, the wife of Henry Gamble of a son.

DEATH.

LOTHERINGTON.—On the 24th December, at 16 Napier-street, Fitzroy, Sarah, the beloved wife of J. K. Lotherington.

Personalities.

WE have received Messrs. M'Kesson and Robbins' special circular, dated New York, 11th December, 1885.

MR. W. T. BROWNE (late dispenser at the Ballarat Hospital) has opened a new Pharmacy at Mudgee, N.S.W.

MR. CHARLES E. BROWN, for some time past with Mr. Biram, at Warragul, is about opening a Pharmacy at Bacchus Marsh.

MR. W. J. WATKINS (Messrs. Evans, Lescher and Webb) was, at last advice, in Auckland, N.Z., and may shortly be expected in Melbourne.

IT is stated that Mr. J. Anderson, who lately returned to the colony after qualifying as a medical man, is about opening a new Pharmacy at Kensington.

MR. FRANCIS FORREST was to leave Auckland, N.Z., for England, *via* America, on the 21st of January. Mr. Forrest is to represent this Journal in America.

WE have received from Mr. C. E. Hirst, of Spencer-street, West Melbourne, a copy of his perfumed Toilet Almanac. It is got up in a very tasteful manner.

MESSRS. Rocke, Tompsitt and Co. have purchased the building at Footscray known as the Footscray Lead Smelting Works, which they propose to utilise as an acid manufactory.

WE are pleased to record that a son of the esteemed President of the Pharmacy Society of Australasia (Mr. William Bowen) has carried all before him at the recent Matriculation Examination.

THE shop of Messrs. Ford and Co., chemists, Swanston-street, Melbourne, was burglariously entered on the 13th inst., and the place ransacked, but so far nothing of value has been missed. Entrance was effected by cutting a hole in the back door, and so unlocking it.

MR. G. T. RASTRICK, Pharmaceutical Chemist, who has been residing in Mortlake for the past three months, has finally decided to permanently settle there. Mr. Rastrick is an old colonist of thirty-eight years' standing, having, in conjunction with the late Dr. W. H. Baylie, started business in Geelong in 1848.



WHEREAS under the provisions of the *Pharmacy Act 1876*, and of the regulations made thereunder, I, the undersigned, JOHN TURNER THOMAS, was appointed to be the Returning Officer, and to conduct the Elections of Members of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria; and whereas the offices of the persons elected Members of the said Pharmacy Board on the Sixth February, 1886, have become vacant by effluxion of time; and whereas under the provisions of the said *Pharmacy Act 1876*, and of the regulations made thereunder, the Returning Officer shall, in the month of February, in the year 1886, proceed to the ELECTION OF THREE PERSONS, being Registered Pharmaceutical Chemists of Victoria, to serve as Members of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria.

Notice is hereby given that I will, on the Eighth day of February, 1886, proceed to the ELECTION OF THREE PERSONS, being Registered Pharmaceutical Chemists, to serve as Members of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria; and also that if the number of persons nominated as hereinafter provided for is greater than the number of persons required to fill the vacancies created as aforesaid, a poll will be taken on the Eighth day of February, 1886.

Nomination Papers must be lodged or delivered by post at the office of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, Melbourne, before Four o'clock in the afternoon of the Twenty-fifth day of January, 1886.

Dated this Fourteenth day of November, 1885.

J. TURNER THOMAS, Returning Officer.
Pharmacy Board of Victoria, Swanston-street, Melbourne.



THE AUSTRALASIAN

Journal of Pharmacy.

No. 2.]

FEBRUARY, 1886.

[VOL. I.

Original and Selected Articles.

NOTES ON A NEW PAPUAN UNCARIA;

BY BARON FERD. VON MUELLER, K.C.M.G., M. & PH.D., F.R.S., F.C.S. &c.

AMONG the plants, recently brought by Captain Everill's Expedition from New Guinea, is one, which in all probability will become of medicinal and industrial importance, as yielding Gambir, and it is thus selected for early special notice in this journal.

Uncaria Bernaysii.—Branchlets robust, distinctly quadrangular; leaves on very short stalks, rather membranous, nearly ovate, short-acuminate, rounded at the base, as well as the branchlets glabrous; stipules almost deltoid, bifid; peduncles several times shorter than the leaves, their lower joint gradually compressed downward, glabrous, the upper slightly downy, also shorter and thinner, bearing at the summit very numerous flowers; involucels extremely short, deciduous; stalklets about as long as the calyces, and as well as these greyish-silky; limb of the calyx deeply cleft; lobes linear-oblong, nearly of the length of the tube while flowering, the inside convex towards the summit; fruit slender, ellipsoid-cylindrical, gradually attenuated at the base and summit, several times longer than the lobes and not separated from them by any elongated neck-like attenuation; appendages of the seeds many times longer than the nucleus, one of them simple, the other often deeply divided.

On the Strickland-River; Dr. Bernays and Mr. W. Baeuerlen. Leaves, so far as seen, to seven inches long and to five inches broad, dark-green above, pale-green beneath; nerves about ten from each side of the midrib; veins rather distant; veinlets faint. Stipules nearly half an inch broad. Peduncles attaining finally a length of two inches; the lower joint of them flattened, some becoming converted into hook-like tendrils. Calyx soon after anthesis about half an inch long; lobes hardly exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch in length. Corolla not available,—all specimens obtained being past flowering. Umbelliform or fascicular head of fruits solitary, measuring about four inches. Pedicels slender, rather longer than the ripe fruits, and as well as these sparsely appressed-hairy; the latter inclusive of the terminating lobes nearly one inch long, streaked by longitudinal nerves, separating by tardy septicidal dehiscence into two halves, but not bursting further, unless at very advanced maturation. Seeds minute, brown, somewhat rough, very much shorter than the whitish narrow appendages.

Aspect of the plant that of *U. pilosa*; but the branchlets and leaves of that species are short-hairy, the involucels conspicuously large, while the fruits are considerably smaller.—From *U. Gambir* and *U. acida*, which are mainly those, reared in plantations for obtaining the mercantile Gambir, our plant differs in many respects; and as it is much more robust and in all its parts

larger, the yield of the drug and dye or tan-material from our plant would be much larger, provided that the contents of Catechin and Catechu-Acid should also prove rich.

W. Hunter's illustration of *U. Gambir* in Vol. IX., pl. 22, of the Linnean Society is a fair one, precisely reiterated in Hayne's *Arzney-Gewächse* X., 3. Better still is the picture of that plant in Bentley's and Trimen's Medicinal Plants, part 7, numb. 139. From that work and from Flückiger and Hanbury's Pharmacography, p. 298-301, ready information might be gained, concerning the simple mode of preparing the Gambir or pale Catechu, as well as the places and extent of export. One other *Uncaria* is extant as Papuan, the *U. appendiculata* from Dutch New Guinea; but it is not closely similar to our plant. In bestowing on the latter now the name of Dr. Bernays, the surgeon of Captain Everill's Expedition, I would bear public testimony to the skill and zeal displayed by him in seeing the whole party back from such a fever-region in safety, the medicinal value of this *Uncaria* likely enhancing to him this particular identification of his name with the Papuan flora.

ANALYTICAL PRACTICE FOR STUDENTS.

By J. B. LILLIE MACKAY, *Graduate of King's College, London; late Demonstrator of Practical Chemistry at the Royal School of Mines, London.*

A KNOWLEDGE of chemical analysis cannot be attained with any degree of accuracy or proficiency without direct observation at the bench of a well-appointed laboratory under the direction of an efficient teacher, for no amount of book learning will enable a student to become an expert in the testing even of simple salts, not to speak of the complex mixtures that may be presented to a candidate for examination. On the other hand, ocular demonstration and rule of thumb practice will not alone produce any great skill, unless the student thoroughly comprehends the nature of the reactions that take place in experimental work, or realise the changes that are likely to occur by the use of certain re-agents. To follow to the letter the instructions given in the analytical schemes in any standard work on Qualitative Analysis, without knowing the *why* and the *wherefore*, is little better than monotonous routine—in fact, a sort of mechanical drudgery. Such knowledge, in most cases, evaporates with the cessation of the practice. The mason may place in regular rows his blocks of stone to erect the wall of a house according to the builder's plan submitted to him, but he cannot, unless he be an architect, design a building that would stand the ravages of time. So, also, the student of chemistry may recognise the presence of a metal or an acidulous radical by formulated experimental test, or in a haphazard manner arrive at a correct result although based on erroneous deductions. But that is not sufficient to give him confidence in his own efforts. He ought to be capable of devising schemes for himself, which he can easily do from observation of analogies or contrasts in the behaviour of chemical substances when acted on by different re-agents. Such schemes or tables are constructed upon a knowledge of the properties of the chemical elements and their various combinations; and it therefore behoves all who wish to excel in analytical practice to possess an elementary acquaintance with theoretical chemistry, and subsequently obtain an adequate grasp of the principles of the science by the performance of tests in the laboratory. Pupils who have no conversance with simple chemical facts make but slow progress

in analysis. The writer would lay special stress upon the importance of acquiring real skill and accuracy in the detection of chemical bodies by becoming familiar, not only with ordinary stereotyped tests, but also with the respective merits of the various means of their recognition as regards both delicacy and speed.

Up till about nine years ago the knowledge of candidates in the subject of Practical Chemistry in the test examinations for teachers instituted by the Science and Art Department of the Privy Council on Education in England was judged by answers to questions set on paper; but the results proved highly unsatisfactory, for many candidates passed the ordeal who were signally ignorant of even the simplest methods of analytical investigation. A separate practical examination was, therefore, established, and certificates are granted for the practical as well as the theoretical branch of the science. It is easy to conceive that a cram-student might learn by rote the columns of a "separation chart" without any experience in laboratory practice; and many such have escaped the meshes of the Government examiner's net.

But even when practical experience is resorted to, many troubles arise to the beginner unless he has constant attention and guidance from some supervisor—one who will not perform the operations for the student, but show him how to do the work himself. One cannot always foresee the difficulties that may be encountered in the identification of the metals, or other chemicals, or in the detection of impurities; but there are many common stumbling-blocks met with by the average student against which hints from an experienced hand may serve as warning finger-posts, whether in letter-press or *viva voce*. It requires, however, a great deal of patience, perseverance, method, and instruction to overcome all the perplexities that may crop up in analytical investigation. Extensive works on analysis like those of Fresenius are full of notes explanatory of such pitfalls, but, as a rule, they are so elaborate as to receive but cursory attention from the tyro, and he is likely to commit greater blunders than ever. The moral is that the student should not hurry over his work, but take every possible pains to master one group until he feels quite competent to asseverate what individual members are present. Having accomplished this, he may then direct his attention to the succeeding groups in the same methodical fashion. Yet it should be remembered that the presence of one set of bases, or of the re-agents added to separate them, may interfere with the detection or removal of some others—*e.g.*, it would be quite out of place to look for ammonia in a solution after having got rid of the iron group, since certain compounds of that base have to be added in the ordinary test processes. Ammonia must *always* be looked for in the original substance or solution by a direct test. But it does not follow, as novices seem to think, that the original solution can be examined in a similar manner for other bases. If sulphurous acid is used to reduce arseniates to ensure complete precipitation of arsenicum, as sulphide (by the passage of a stream of sulphuretted hydrogen gas), sulphuric acid is necessarily formed by oxidation of the lower acid. It will therefore throw down barium (if that base be present), as insoluble sulphate, and the latter may be lost sight of in its proper place in consequence. Again, if that reduction is not performed, sulphuretted hydrogen will not precipitate the arsenic, and the student may think he has phosphates present when he comes to apply the molybdate test, and again fall into embarrassing complications, besides losing time over the special treatment. Once more, ferric chloride is reduced to ferrous chloride by the passage of SH_2 , to remove the metals of group ii., and then the iron will not be thoroughly precipitated by ammonia in the ensuing group unless the precaution be taken beforehand to oxidize it by boiling with a few drops of nitric acid.

Preliminary experiments (or dry reactions, as they are called) upon the substance under examination are of great moment, as it aids the student very much in affording indications of what particular processes of separation should be employed. To furnish an instance: blow-pipe reactions would inform him whether copper or mercury be present, and a knowledge of this is requisite in the choice of a re-agent to separate arsenic, antimony, and tin sulphides from those of the copper and mercury divisions, otherwise clean separations cannot be carried out. The flame tests of volatile salts are very useful to give a clue to the presence of certain metals, as copper, barium, lithium; while Browning's direct vision spectroscope is exceedingly handy and valuable in discerning by means of the lines in the spectrum what metals are imparting the colouration, since there are various greens, crimsons, etc., produced in the flame. Then we have incrustations on charcoal, borax beads in the oxidizing and reducing flame respectively, and the nature of metallic beads or residues produced on charcoal with the aid of fluxes, from all of which very good inferences may frequently be drawn. The observation of sublimations or metallic mirrors when the substance is heated in a bulb tube alone, or with the aid of fusion mixture, is specially important, and requires the exercise of great care. Water of crystallization is also detected in the same way, but should in every case be removed from the neck of the tube by a slender roll of bibulous paper, so that deposition of sublimes may be clearly seen. All such trial tests should be duly recorded in the laboratory note-book in three parallel columns, thus:—

EXPERIMENT.	OBSERVATION.	INFERENCE.
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Some tutors recommend this preliminary work to be done during the process of separation in the wet way, as when filtrations and washing of precipitates are going on, but such plan loses all the value of the work. Some students, from sheer laziness, only perform one or two dry reactions after the examination in the regular wet method, and then "cook" their report to accord with the results found. Any experienced examiner can at once detect such fraudulent representations, as they may be truly termed.

In many university laboratories the student analyses his mixture, and goes to the demonstrator to declare the results obtained. He is merely asked what he has found, and never questioned as to the *modus operandi*, and then he is told "right" or "wrong," "repeat," or "pass on," as the case may be! Such lax system never discovers whether the pupil has performed his work in a conscientious or honest fashion. Students are not infallible, and the writer's experience, both as a student and teacher in various laboratories, has clearly proved that unfair means are adopted. The student should work straightforwardly, and not quiz his neighbour as to what he has found in a certain sample. He ought to save, if convenient, his precipitates, his beads, and colour tests until the whole investigation is completed, not only for further reference himself, if necessary, but that the overseer can see them in case of doubt, and criticise his work.

Another important point for the beginner is to learn to discriminate between real constituents and traces of other bodies, or accidental impurities introduced by careless manipulation. To avoid the last named it is essential at the outset that all test tubes, evaporating basins, and funnels be thoroughly cleansed, that the re-agents be pure and the solutions clear, and made with distilled water. Then the re-agent bottles on the shelves must be kept clean, especially about the necks, and the stoppers free from dust. The next thing is to know how much of the sample should be worked with. A common mistake is to start with too large a quantity of the substance to be tested, whereby much loss of time

follows, especially in filtration and in washing precipitates. Ordinarily speaking for analysis in the wet way as much as will lie on a threepenny piece is ample, but if a heavy or insoluble powder, much less is required. Lastly, time and temperature should not be overlooked, as they modify considerably the results obtained in qualitative analysis.

(*To be continued.*)

SHELLAC.

By J. BOSISTO, *Examiner in Materia Medica at the College of Pharmacy.*

IN the central province of India, especially in the thick jungles, the coccus lacca insect may be seen dwelling together in thick set groups on the branches and twigs of zizyphus jujuba, ficus religiosa, butea frondosa, besides other trees and shrubs belonging chiefly to the leguminosæ order. Each insect incrusts itself over with a resinous substance, forming within a cell containing larvæ and a deep colouring matter, the dead body of the parent being itself the cell. Hundreds of these are piled together adhering to a twig, and in this condition it is termed stick-lac, and contains about 70 per cent. of resin, 10 per cent. of colouring matter, and the rest *debris*.

The collecting of stick-lac and the making of shellac, button-lac, sheet-lac, and lac dye is an industry carried on by the Hindoos in the districts of the central provinces. In order to obtain the largest quantity both of resin and colouring matter, the stick-lac is collected before the larvæ emerges from the cells, else, with their flight, they carry away the greater part of the dye colouring.

Since the advent of the aniline dyes, lac dye is but little in demand. The larvæ is allowed to mature, as it does not interfere with the quality or quantity of the resin portion. It is chiefly this circumstance that keeps down the price of shellac, there being, consequently, more insect workers than formerly.

The process of dealing with stick-lac for the making of shellac and lac dye was witnessed by the writer when in India, and is as follows:—The first part of the process is to separate the lac from the twigs. This is done by two women—one turning and the other feeding a primitive-shaped, wooden mill. When a heap is formed (about a bushel in quantity), it is winnowed in a rustic-looking winnower, the lighter *debris* separating; the remainder is then hand-picked. The process of grinding and winnowing is repeated until the whole is reduced to small, orange-coloured nodules. When in this condition it is termed seed-lac; the bright, garnet-coloured pieces, being few in number, are now picked out and set aside for native ornaments. The seed-lac is then placed into a large earthenware pan, and with it some water. A woman steps into the pan, steadyng herself against the mud wall with her hands, then turning violently to the right and left, in order to keep the lac in a continual state of motion against her feet and the sides of the pan for some time, the other woman occasionally adding more water, until the vessel is full of a dark-coloured liquid. After settlement, the dye water is removed into another earthenware pan, and the lac again washed until the water runs away clear.

Lac Dye.—The treatment of the coloured water for the purpose of obtaining from it the lac dye is very simple. After straining lime water is added, which precipitates the dye. The water is then drawn off, and the dye drained through cotton cloth; from this it is transferred to compressible frames, containing strong iron plates, and reduced by a native screw press to solid sheets of dark purple dye about a quarter of an inch thick; these are cut

up into cakes and stored till dry enough for packing, and then forwarded to Calcutta for sale in the bazaars. The utilitarian value of lac dye over cochineal in a humid climate, especially in dyeing the scarlet cloth of the soldiers' coats, lies in its power to resist the action of human perspiration.

Shellac.—The manufacture of shellac is an entirely distinct process. The seed-lac at the bottom of the pan is removed, dried, and sifted. The finer dust, which is highly inflammable, is removed. The lac workers of India make it up into bracelets and ornaments of various kinds.

The coarse lac which is to be made into shell is put into long sausage-shaped bags of about two inches diameter, made of cloth like American drill. Under a shed is a charcoal fire about two feet long and six inches wide; alongside of the fireplace is a bamboo pole, about three feet long and four inches diameter, filled with warm sand, inclining at a slight angle to the ground. On each side of the fireplace is sitting a man, but more generally a woman, each holding an end of the sausage roll-looking bag about twelve inches high over the clear charcoal fire, turning the roll or bag briskly until the lac begins to ooze through the interstices of the cloth; the bag is still kept twisted until a coating of soft lac covers the outside. It is then removed from the fire, and a small disc of lac is placed here and there over the surface of the bamboo by a rapid turn of the wrist. A third woman is sitting at one end of the bamboo, holding in both hands a strip of aloe leaf, resembling very much a thin magic wand; this she pushes forward over the soft lac, repeating the motion three or four times, when a thin film of the lac covers over the round surface of the bamboo, which is immediately transferred into an open basket; the lac, drying rapidly, cracks up into many pieces—this is shellac.

Button-lac is simply shellac without spreading.

Sheet-lac is made in a similar manner to shellac, only the sheets are much thicker, and the woman removing it from the bamboo in a supple condition, and with both hands, stretches it over the fire, in order to remove the wave-like furrows which are impressed on it by the fibrous surface of the aloe leaf. While doing this it is not uncommon to see the woman—who performs her work intelligently—lift the hot sheet to her mouth and bite out any foreign substance, such as dirt or sand, filling in the hole so made by a rapid movement of her hand over the sheet. The average rate of wages is an anna and a quarter ($1\frac{1}{4}$ of a penny) per day.

WE regret to have to record the death, in his seventy-second year, of Dr. Thomas Andrews, F.R.S., whose researches so largely extended our knowledge of the conditions under which gases pass into the liquid state; also of Mr. Alfred Tribe, another indefatigable scientific worker in the domain of chemistry.

ACTION OF LIGHT ON IODOFORM PREPARATIONS.—The action of light on iodoform collodion and iodoform salve has already been observed. To determine the change which takes place, E. Fabini (*Pharm. Post*, xviii., p. 975) made two solutions of iodoform in petroleum benzine, the one in a transparent and the other in an opaque bottle. In about ten minutes the solution in the colourless bottle began to change colour, and in about twenty minutes it turned deep red. On the following day it was found that the solution in the dark bottle was still unchanged. A portion of it, exposed to direct sunlight, was immediately reduced, and acquired a deep-red colour. It is evident, therefore, that a solution of iodoform in fat, ether, benzine, etc., is very sensitive to light, the iodoform being reduced with the separation of free iodine.—*The Druggists' Circular and Chemical Gazette.*

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COMMUNICATIONS for the EDITORIAL department of this Journal must be addressed to THE EDITOR, SWANSTON STREET, MELBOURNE.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

PHARMACY AND FEDERATION.

THE present era is one of federation. No subject is more frequently on men's lips, or more thoroughly discussed in the public journals. The federation of the Australian colonies may now be said to be an accomplished fact. The session of the Federal Council has been held, and the work it has done is destined to endure in history. The federation of the British Empire is occupying the minds of all leading public men both in the old country and in the colonies, and there is a strong tendency manifested in every direction to combine for the maintenance of common interests, whether professional or simply industrial.

As there is no valid reason why this spirit should not be operative amongst the members of the pharmaceutical profession, there is shown to be some logical connection between pharmacy and federation. At first glance it becomes evident that there is sound reason for the holding of the pharmaceutical conference to be held in Melbourne in October next, and it is satisfactory to find that the project is meeting with general support throughout Australasia. Year by year the necessity of assimilating the pharmacy laws of the various colonies, and establishing a uniform system of training, teaching, and examination, has been forcing itself more strongly on the attention of the more thoughtful members of the profession, and the success which has attended the recent meeting of the Federal Council at Hobart encourages us to look forward to the results of the forthcoming conference with no little degree of confidence.

Among the matters to be considered by the conference—and the adoption of which is thought to be essential to the future development of Australasian pharmacy—are the four proposals enumerated in the admirable paper on "Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Education," contributed to our "specimen copy" by Mr. C. R. Blackett—viz.:—(1) That there be a preliminary examination before apprenticeship; (2) that the apprenticeship be of four years' duration; (3) that students should attend certain specified courses in college classes on chemistry, botany, *materia medica*, &c.; and (4) that they pass examinations in due course in these subjects, and a final and practical examination in pharmacy. If these rules be adopted a firm basis will be laid for the improvement of the condition and the extension of the scientific education of the future generation of pharmacists in Australia. The synopsis of the various pharmacy laws in force throughout the colony (also published in our specimen copy) shows that much remains to be done towards their assimilation and

unification ; and this important matter will also, no doubt, receive the careful consideration of the assembled delegates. It is not, of course, to be expected that vital changes, such as we have here foreshadowed, can be brought into operation by a simple resolution of the conference. It may be several years ere the reforms indicated are achieved to their full extent, but the friendly interchange of opinions, for which an opportunity is thus afforded, cannot fail to augment the good feeling which should exist between Australian pharmacists, and thus set in operation forces that will, sooner or later, bring about the high objects aimed at.

In concluding this brief article we may be allowed to add a few words about ourselves, our aims, and purposes. And, as a first point, we desire to lay special stress on the fact that the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy*, as from the first, will keep steadily true to its title. It will in no sense be a merely *local* journal, but will take within the scope of its survey the whole group of the colonies, both continental and insular. The pharmacist of Queensland or New Zealand will be just as much interested in the contents of every number of the journal as will be his brother professional resident in Sydney or Melbourne. As stated in the prospectus, each number as it appears will be forwarded gratuitously to every member of the Pharmaceutical Society in the seven colonies ; nor will Fiji and New Guinea be excluded. This wide range of circulation will make the journal a valuable medium for advertisements, whilst, at the same time, it will secure for its readers the utmost variety of contributions, competent correspondents having been appointed in each colony, for whose contributions we undertake the editorial responsibility, and who will keep them *au fait* with everything of interest occurring throughout Australasia.

The *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy* will also be distinctively Australasian in respect of its treatment of the art of Pharmacy, for it will deal with the principles of the art as these are affected by the special conditions of climate, the natural products, and other local conditions and circumstances attaching to this part of the world. In the most specific sense of the word it will thus fill a very important position in the literature of pharmacy, and on that account will, no doubt, be read with interest even by pharmacists in the old country. The measure of approval which has been bestowed on our first number has exceeded our most sanguine expectations, and thus encouraged, and relying on the support and willing contributions of Pharmacists resident in the southern dominion, we shall spare no exertion to render the journal a thoroughly efficient organ of Australian pharmacy, worthy both of the art and its professors.

A PARISIAN dentist, named Duchesne, has been adjudged to pay £1000 to the heirs of M. Lejeune, who went to him to have a tooth extracted, and died under the administration of the protoxyde of azote. The deceased was somewhat corpulent, and the two medical men who made the autopsy reprobated the practice of employing the anaesthetic except under medical advice.

REMEDY FOR WARTS.—Among other remedies, carbonate of magnesium has been recommended, especially in cases where the warts are very numerous ; a teaspoonful of it is to be taken three times a day for two or three weeks, and is said to effect a sure cure. The warts may also be touched with crystallised carbolic acid, of which a small crystal is placed on the wart and allowed to be absorbed. In addition to this treatment carbonate of magnesium is recommended to be taken internally.—*Ph. Ztg.* No. 38, 1885.

Victoria.

PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA.

THE monthly meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria was held at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, on Wednesday, the 10th February, 1886.

The president (Mr. C. Blackett) was in the chair.

The registrar read the return made to him by the returning officer of the newly-elected members of the Board, who were introduced and took their seats.

The members present were Messrs. Blackett, Bowen, Brind, Francis, Owen, Strutt, and Tompsitt.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The president then left the chair, which, on the motion of Mr. Bowen, was taken by Mr. Brind.

APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT.

Mr. Tompsitt said,—“I have great pleasure in proposing the re-appointment, for the ensuing year, of Mr. C. R. Blackett as president of this board. I feel satisfied that the gentlemen who have sat with Mr. Blackett during his late presidency must have a high appreciation of the efficient and able manner in which he has performed his duties. The coming year will be an important one, and I trust that Mr. Blackett will consent to again accept a position, for the third time, that he has filled with so much credit to himself and satisfaction to his colleagues.” The motion was seconded by Mr. Bowen and carried unanimously.

The chair was then vacated by Mr. Brind, and was taken by Mr. Blackett, who briefly returned thanks for the honour conferred on him.

ELECTION OF HONORARY TREASURER.

Mr. Brind said,—“It affords me great pleasure to move the re-appointment of Mr. H. T. Tompsitt as treasurer.” The motion was seconded by Mr. Francis, and carried unanimously.

After a few words from Mr. Tompsitt, the ordinary business was proceeded with.

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION.

Mr. William Padley, of 170 Clarendon-street, South Melbourne, the holder of a Minor Examination certificate from the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, was duly registered.

The application of Mr. Geo. A. Dimock was considered. This was a renewal of an application made in 1879. On that occasion the Board declined to register the applicant, and, after again reconsidering the matter, saw no reason to alter the former decision.

The application of Mr. John Duncan, of Bairnsdale, was also submitted to the Board. Mr. Duncan based his claim for registration on having passed the Preliminary Examination in England, having served an apprenticeship, and been an assistant in England before the passing of the Pharmacy Act of Victoria 1876. After considering the case the Board decided that Mr. Duncan would require to pass the Modified Examination.

SALE AND USE OF POISONS ACT.—NEW CERTIFICATES GRANTED.

William Edward Veal, Lake Bolac.
Robert Ford, Wickliffe.
John Coffey, Kewell.

William Burton Gadd, Avenel.
Samuel Tonkin, Avenel.

APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINERS.

The following examiners were appointed:—

Materia Medica.—Mr. Henry Francis.

Botany.—Mr. C. R. Blackett.

Chemistry and Practical Chemistry.—Mr. Wm. Johnson.

EXAMINATIONS.

The questions for the quarterly examination to be held in March were submitted to the Board by the Examiners.

NAMES ERASED FROM THE PHARMACEUTICAL REGISTER OF VICTORIA.

John Lamb, Newmarket.

Frederick Alexander Dunn, Hawthorn.

Both deceased.

THE AMENDED PHARMACY ACT 1885.

Some correspondence was submitted from the Mutual Store and Equitable Co-operative Society, and also from several other persons affected by the amended Act. These cases are now being dealt with, and a report thereon will be submitted at the next meeting of the Board.

POLICE REPORTS.

A number of police reports, in reference to deaths from poisons where inquests are held, were forwarded from the Chief Commissioner of Police. In each case the provisions of the Sale and Use of Poisons Act had been strictly complied with.

The Central Board of Health brought under notice the case of a person suffering from typhoid fever, who had been attended by a chemist in a country district. The case is now being further investigated, to ascertain if a breach of Section 25 of the Pharmacy Act has been committed.

Several letters were read from persons in Sydney, stating that they had applied for registration on the Victorian certificate, but had been refused, and informed that the certificate of Victoria was not recognised in New South Wales.

The ordinary financial general business brought the meeting to a close.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

THE monthly meeting of the council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia was held at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, on Friday, 12th February, 1886.

Present—Messrs. Harrison, Tompsitt, Baker, Huntsman, and Kingsland.

Mr. Thomas Huntsman in the chair.

Apologies were received from Mr. C. R. Blackett and Mr. Bowen.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

The following new members, having complied with the necessary form of application, were balloted for and duly elected:—

Mr. Edward Donaghy, Numurkah.

Mr. Paul Ward Farmer, Melbourne.

The application of Mr. J. C. C. Jones, of Lilydale, was postponed pending the receipt of the requisite declaration.

THE ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE-SHEET.

The report and balance-sheet for the year 1885 were submitted, and ordered to be printed and distributed amongst the members. The balance-sheet shows the financial position of the society to be in a highly satisfactory state, with a steadily increasing income, the balance to the credit of the benevolent fund being £257 13s. 7d.

The report and balance-sheet were unanimously adopted.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The order of the business to be dealt with at the annual meeting, to be held on the 10th March next, was discussed.

It was resolved that the gold medal for the 1885 session be presented at the meeting, and also the president's prize. The president, Mr. W. Bowen, will deliver the annual address, and at the conclusion of the meeting the quarterly supper will be held.

THE INTERCOLONIAL PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

The consideration of this matter, and the appointment of the committee to carry it out, were postponed until the next meeting of the council.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE 1886 SESSION.

It was resolved that the session for pharmaceutical students should commence on the 23rd March, and for medical students on the 24th March.

CORRESPONDENCE, ETC.

From Mr. E. Gilbert, Quorn, S.A., forwarding his resignation as a member of the society, which was accepted. From the secretary of the Royal Technological Commission, applying for the use of office accommodation. It was resolved that the request be complied with, the rental to be £25 per annum. From Mr. James Lacey, intimating that he would not again offer himself for re-election as a member of the council, having seldom time to study the business to be transacted, and therefore thinking it better to withdraw from a position he could not honestly maintain. A number of other letters of no special public interest were dealt with. Financial and general business brought the meeting to a close.

THE MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

An ordinary meeting of this Society was held at the College of Pharmacy on Thursday evening, the 28th January; the president (Mr. T. S. Ralph, M.R.C.S., Eng.) in the chair. Mr. W. E. Pickels, F.R.M.S., and Mr. Ball were elected members. An interesting paper on the histology of *tmesipteris*—a plant allied to the fern, and the only example of its species—was read by Mr. A. H. S. Lucas. The plant was originally discovered in Tanna, and is remarkable for its rigidity and hardness, most allied species being tender and fragile. Mr. Bale made some remarks on the *marsilea*, a plant of the fern family very similar to four-leaved clover, from the seed of which the famous “nardoo” of the aborigines is made. The peculiarity of the *marsilea* is that, although low down in the classification of plant life, it closes its leaves at night time, a habit generally only observable in the higher forms of plants.

THE FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB OF VICTORIA.

THE monthly meeting of the Club was held at the Royal Society's Hall, on Monday evening, 18th January, 1886.

Mr. T. A. Forbes-Leith, vice-president, occupied the chair, and about fifty members and visitors were present.

The hon. librarian acknowledged the receipt of the following donation to the library:—"Proceedings of the Linnaean Society of New South Wales," Vol. X., Part 3, from the Society.

The hon. secretary read a short account by Mr. C. French, F.L.S., of the Club excursion to Cheltenham on the 16th inst. The day was very oppressive, and only about ten members were present. The principal plants noted in flower were *Cakile maritima*, *Lobelia anceps*, *Alyxia buxifolia*, and the orchid, *Dipodium punctatum*. Insects were scarce, but the beautiful buprestid, *Cyria imperialis*, also *Stigmodera sanguinipennis*, *S. variabilis*, and *S. sp.* were taken.

The following were elected members of the Club:—Mrs. J. Stirling, Messrs. Pickerling and St. John Topp, and Mast. Geo. French.

Mr. F. Reader forwarded a note respecting the paper on Fungi by Mr. Tisdall, published in the January *Naturalist*. He made the following criticisms on Mr. Tisdall's paper:—(1) That the spores of Fungi are not always oval or round, but present considerable differences in form. (2) That it is undesirable to apply the same term "family" to such unequal groups as the Sporiferæ and Polyporei; and (3) That the term "pericarp" should be excluded from cryptogamic descriptions.

Papers read:—The hon. secretary read for Mr. I. Batey, of Sunbury, the second part of his paper, "Notes on the Habits of our Native Birds." This part was devoted to cockatoos and magpies, and the writer's account of these birds caused some discussion, with some interesting remarks from Rev. C. M. Yelland. The popular style in which the paper was written was apparently appreciated.

Owing to the unavoidable absence of Dr. Dobson, Mr. Topp, and Mr. Reader, their papers were postponed for a future meeting.

The following were the principal exhibits:—By Mr. F. G. A. Barnard, coleoptera collected recently at Pakenham, the Plenty River, and Beechworth, also photographs of the Lal Lal and Moorabool Falls, the scene of the recent excursion; by Mr. D. Best, coleoptera collected during the season; by Mr. G. Coghill, recent collections of coleoptera; by Mr. J. E. Dixon, forty species of coleoptera collected during December; by Mr. T. A. Forbes-Leith, a pair of Kakas or Hill parrots of New Zealand (*Nestor Meridionalis*); by Mr. C. French, F.L.S., two rare humming-birds, *Topaza pella* from Cayenne, and *Cometes phaon*, from Andes of Bolivia; by Mr. E. H. Hennell, coleoptera from North Queensland; by Mr. F. Reader, Victorian lycopods and selaginellas; by Mr. J. F. Roberts, the moth orchid of Java (*Phalaenopsis grandiflora*); by Mr. F. Spry, micro-lepidoptera from the Grampians, and part of the core from a diamond drill, consisting of slate with fossil impressions, from Stawell; by Mr. A. Thie, specimens of rubies, sapphires, and other precious stones; by Rev. C. M. Yelland, a young saw-fish caught at Brighton.

After the usual *conversazione* the meeting terminated.

IN the Zürich University one-tenth of the students are female. Twenty-nine young ladies study medicine, fourteen philosophy, and two political economy. Out of these 45 students 15 are Swiss and 10 Russians.

BANQUET TO MR. J. BOSISTO, M.P.

THE scientific societies of Victoria entertained Mr. J. Bosisto, M.P., the President of the Victorian Section of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, at a banquet, at Scott's Hotel, on the 25th January, prior to his departure for England.

Mr. Robert Ellery occupied the chair, and Professor Kernot the vice-chair, the following societies being represented by their presidents or vice-presidents :—The Royal Society of Victoria, Professor Kernot; the Medical Society, Dr. Jamieson; the British Medical Association, Dr. Neild; the Pharmaceutical Society, Mr. Wm. Bowen; the Microscopical Society, Mr. C. R. Blackett; the Royal Geographical Society, Baron Sir F. Von Müller. The Government was represented by the Hon. Alfred Deakin, and the University by Professor M'Coy. Amongst the gentlemen present were Drs. Moloney and Fulton, Messrs. Grimwade, Masters, Rocke, Burrows, Harrison, Baker, Don, Brind, Fletcher, and Hooper.

Apologies were read by the chairman from the Hons. D. Gillies and G. Langridge, His Honour Mr. Justice Kerferd, Dr. Ralph, President of the Microscopical Society, and the Rev. J. J. Halley, President of the Field Naturalist's Club, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Mr. C. Smith, M.P., the Under Secretary, Mr. R. T. Wilson, Mr. B. C. Harriman, the Hon. L. L. Smith, and other gentlemen.

The loyal toasts having been honoured, Mr. C. R. Blackett proposed "The Parliament of Victoria." He referred especially to the great service rendered to Victoria by the present Premier, and regretted that Mr. Service should be compelled by ill-health to retire from public life before he saw the consummation of the federation movement by the establishment of the great Dominion of Australasia. Mr. Deakin responded, and paid a high tribute to the worth of Mr. Bosisto. The chairman (Mr. Ellery) then proposed "The Health of the Guest." He said that the attainments of Mr. Bosisto, his integrity, and his intelligence, fitted him especially to represent the colony at the forthcoming exhibition. He wished Mr. Bosisto a pleasant voyage, a successful mission, and a speedy return to Victoria.

Mr. Bosisto, in reply, thanked the scientific societies of Melbourne for entertaining him that evening, and stated that he had always endeavoured to place before the public of Victoria the value of a knowledge of the great truths of science. He could assure them that he went away not in a spirit of pride, but of humility. He would endeavour to do his duty and to uphold the dignity of the colony.

The toast of "The Scientific Societies of Victoria" was proposed by Mr. Bosisto, and responded to by the representatives of the various societies present.

"The Health of the Chairman" (Mr. Ellery), which was very warmly received, terminated the proceedings.

BALLARAT CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.

THE annual picnic of the above association took place on Friday, the 29th January, and a happy party of thirty persons assembled at the Ballarat Post-office at half-past nine o'clock. A warm sunny morning gave promise of a pleasant day, and in well-appointed drags we started in the best possible spirits. A passing shower met us upon the road, but was accepted as a pleasant means of laying the dust, and the sun shone forth again as we made

our triumphant entry into the charming township of Learmonth, which, by some happy inspiration, had been selected as the place of rendezvous. The services of Host M'Kenzie, of The Stag, having been secured to cater for our wants, an adjournment to the cricket-field speedily took place, and some brilliant displays of cricket astonished and delighted the bystanders, and it was generally agreed that less than a three days' match would not do justice to the players. The welcome sound of the dinner bell cut short the game, and a portly member of our association carrying out his bat, a suggestion was made that he should be escorted from the field with the usual honours, but as it would have required the combined efforts of the team, and some assistance from the bystanders, he gracefully waived his privilege. When we reached the inn a sumptuous spread awaited us, and when full justice had been done to it, the usual loyal toasts were given and responded to. The vice-president, in the absence of the president, then proposed the prosperity of the Ballarat Chemists' Association, and a hearty hope was expressed that it would long continue to enjoy the same prosperity as it had in the past. "The Ladies," proposed in a feeling manner by Mr. Malyon, was responded to in a most effective speech by Mr. Cornell. A game of bowls filled up the time until the steamer (which had been specially engaged for a cruise upon the lake) was ready. A few passing showers made it doubtful if this part of the programme could be carried out, but as the weather cleared the ladies courageously determined to brave the dangers of the deep. The lovely scenery well repaid the venture—the rich farms and prosperous looking homesteads on the margin of the lake, the picturesque churches, embowered in foliage, and the public buildings of Learmonth, adding a charm to the landscape. A sudden storm shortened the trip, and compelled a return to port. The pleasant manner in which the ladies bore the discomfort they were put to spoke volumes for their amiable dispositions, and giving the same charm to domestic life explains the cheerful manner so characteristic of the members of the association. After a social cup, preparations were made for departure, and Host M'Kenzie, of whose attention and desire to promote our enjoyment we cannot speak too highly, furnished an apparently inexhaustible supply of rugs and wrappers for those not provided. A parting cheer, and after a pleasant drive we reached Ballarat safely, thus bringing to a happy close our fifth anniversary.

THE following letter has been received by the hon. secretary of the Ballarat Chemists' Association from the registrar of the School of Mines, Ballarat :—

SIR,—Referring to previous correspondence *re* gold medal presented by the Ballarat Chemists' Association to the council of the school for competition by the chemists' apprentices of Ballarat, and to be awarded to the student showing best general proficiency for the year 1885, I have the honour to inform you that Professor Smith, with the concurrence of Mr. Day, lecturer on botany, has recommended that the medal be awarded to Student Mr. Harry Mortimer Martell, on the grounds that, "in addition to passing the three examinations (conducted by the Pharmacy Board) in *materia medica*, botany, and chemistry, Mr. Martell has done a considerable amount of work towards the final examination in practical pharmacy, besides passing the first and second stage examinations of the School of Mines in chemistry."—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

ANDREW BERRY, REGISTRAR.

23rd January, 1886.

The Month.

WE are pleased to state that the health of Mr. E. Bage, whose illness was referred to in our last issue, is much improved.

THE 1886 session in Practical Pharmacy for medical students, at the College of Pharmacy, will commence on the 24th March.

MR. C. R. BLACKETT will read Notes on Ipecacuanha Wine, B.P., 1885, at the quarterly meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia to be held on the 10th March next.

IT is announced in the *Government Gazette* that Mr. W. Johnson, Government analytical chemist, has been appointed analytical chemist for the examination of spirits under the new Licensing Act.

THE gold medal and the president's prize for the dux of 1885 will be presented to Mr. Paul Ward Farmer at the annual meeting on the 10th March, at 8.30 p.m. Students and members are invited to attend.

THE Central Board of Health has advised the analysts of the country towns of the occurrence of poisoning by tinned fish, and requested them to endeavour to trace any cases that should happen.

AT the last meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, held on the 10th of February, Mr. C. R. Blackett was, for the third time, re-elected president of the Board. Mr. H. T. Tompsett was also re-elected treasurer.

AMONG the successful candidates for Parliament during the recent general election in Great Britain is Mr. J. H. Haslett, described as a chemist and druggist, who was returned in the Conservative interest for West Belfast.

THE annual meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia takes place on Wednesday, 10th March, at the College of Pharmacy, at 8 o'clock. After the meeting the quarterly supper will be held at the Earl of Zetland Hotel, Swanston-street.

THE lectures in *Materia Medica*, Botany, and Chemistry for the year 1886 will commence at the College of Pharmacy on the 23rd March. We are requested to call students' attention to the time for entry (14th March), which will be strictly adhered to.

THE views of the interior and exterior of the College of Pharmacy, taken for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, were forwarded to London by the last mail. Another set has also been prepared for presentation to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

THE nominations for the three vacant seats on the Pharmacy Board closed on the 25th January, at 4 p.m. The only candidates were Messrs. C. R. Blackett, William Bowen, and Samuel Shippam Strutt, who were, therefore, declared by the returning officer (Mr. J. T. Thomas) duly elected.

AT a recent meeting of the Council of Agricultural Education Mr. Derham, M.L.A., announced that a gentleman, who wished his name withheld, had intimated his intention of giving £1000 to found a scholarship at the Agricultural College as soon as it was placed upon a practical footing.

IN recording Mr. Sidney Plowman's admission as a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, the *Pharmaceutical Journal* adds:—We believe we are correct in saying that Mr. Plowman is the first registered chemist and druggist who, having left pharmacy for the medical profession, has attained this degree.

THE Central Board of Health and local boards' officers are now empowered to enter bakers' premises at any time they choose to make an inspection of them. Previous to the sanctioning of this act by the legislature only a policeman with an order could enter these premises, and there was no means of detecting the use of alum, etc.

THE following are the fixtures for the quarterly examinations :—Preliminary examination, 1st March; *materia medica*, botany, and chemistry on the 2nd and 3rd March; practical pharmacy, 4th and 5th March; modified, 4th March. Ten days' notice of the intention of a candidate to present himself must be given in every case.

THE time allowed for receiving applications for appointment to the position of agricultural chemist to the Department of Agriculture expired on Thursday, the 11th February. Twelve persons have offered their services, and the Minister of Agriculture will as soon as possible make a selection and submit it to the Public Service Board. Mr. A. N. Pearson has since been selected for the position.

MR. WILLIAM BOWEN, the esteemed president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, leaves for England, *via* America, on the 25th March, and will carry with him the good wishes of a large number of his fellow-colonists for a pleasant time in the old country, and a safe return. We understand Mr. Bowen proposes to be absent about twelve months.

MR. M'ALPINE'S classes in practical botany and biology at the Ormond College will be carried on this year as they were last year, and the class in practical chemistry will probably be divided, so that one-half may meet during the day and the other in the evening, but in all cases the college lectures are arranged so as not to interfere with the attendance at the University classes.

ACCORDING to common rumour in Wangaratta, Mrs. Stevens, who stands charged with the murder of the farmer Plum, has previously murdered one of her husbands, and has tried to murder another. At any rate, her last husband turned her out of his house, and when she sued him for maintenance, he swore he had detected her attempting to poison him. A former husband complained of spasms in the stomach for some time before he died.

THE election for the four vacant seats in the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia will take place on the 10th March, and ballot papers must be received "before" 10 a.m. on that day. The following are the candidates nominated :—Messrs. William Bowen, Melbourne; Stephen Michael Dalton, Prahran; Rawson Parke Francis, South Melbourne; John Clarke Jones, Richmond; William Young Nelson, Windsor; and Henry Thomas Tompsitt, Hawthorn.

A LETTER of thanks has been addressed by the Minister of Mines to Mr. R. L. J. Ellery, the chairman of the board which recently reported upon the use of nitro-glycerine compounds in mines, and the best means of rendering innocuous the fumes arising from their combustion. Mr. Levien recognises the careful and exhaustive nature of the inquiries conducted by the board, and states that, as far as possible, the department will at an early date give effect to its various suggestions, which are now under his consideration.

FROM an exchange we learn that some of the American co-workers with Dr. Asa Gray in the science of botany made his seventy-fifth birthday, on the 18th November last, the occasion of the presentation of a silver vase in testimony of their esteem. According to *Nature* the vase, which is eleven inches high, and stands on a low ebony pedestal, is artistically decorated with American plants, prominent among which are *Grayia polygaloides*, *Shortia galicifolia*, *Aster bigelovii*, *Solidago serotina*, *Lilium grayi*, and *Rudbeckia speciosa*.

As the Public Service Board have certified that there is no officer in the service qualified to act as agricultural chemist for the Department of Agriculture, Mr. Levien has directed that applications shall be invited from persons competent to perform the duties of the new position. Several gentlemen applied for the appointment before the certificate of the Public Service Board rendered it necessary to seek an officer outside the service, but the Minister of Agriculture thinks it desirable to give the matter full publicity before making a selection.

MR. J. BOSISTO, president of the Indian and Colonial Commission in Victoria, left by R.M.S. *Valetta*, which sailed at one o'clock on Thursday, the 28th January, to represent the colony at the forthcoming exhibition in London. A number of Mr. Bosisto's fellow-commissioners and other friends attended to see him off, and some of them accompanied him in the mail steamer as far as Queenscliff. The most cordial good wishes were expressed for the success of Mr. Bosisto's mission, for a pleasant voyage, and his safe return. The *Valetta* has a consignment of exhibits among her cargo.

A MEETING of chemists interested in the annual cricket match was held at the College of Pharmacy, on Monday, the 8th inst.; Mr. Strutt in the chair. There was a fair attendance, and letters of apology were received from several gentlemen. It was decided to appoint a committee to carry the annual cricket matches through. The following gentlemen were selected:—Mr. A. C. Lewis, hon. secretary and treasurer; Messrs. Strutt, Cattach, Caught, and Owen, committee. The balance-sheet and report of last year's match was read and adopted, and, after a vote of thanks to the chairman, the meeting adjourned.

THE *Police Gazette* notifies that there was stolen from the shop of Mr. Robert Wylie, chemist, Burwood-road, Hawthorn, on the 10th January, a small japanned tin cash-box, handle off, containing a £5-note, about £3 in silver, a silver pencil-case, a lady's dress ring set with four or five diamonds, a small box of leads for pencils, a number of postage stamps, a deposit receipt for £225 on the National Bank, a cheque, drawn by J. L. Batten, for £2 12s. on the Commercial Bank; a crossed cheque, drawn by — Atkinson, for £1 19s. on the London Chartered Bank; and an open cheque, drawn by H. Ray, for £2 on the Colonial Bank, Melbourne.

WE have received a copy of the Register of Chemists and Druggists and other persons who are registered under the provisions of the "Sale and Use of Poisons Act 1876" of New South Wales. Attention was drawn last year to several names on this list of persons whose qualifications are stated as being members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria, but who are not, and never were, members. We find, however, that no alteration has been made in this respect, and also that the names of several persons who have been dead for some years still continue to appear. If the Register is to be of any practical value it is a pity more care is not taken in its compilation, and that when attention is called to errors they should be persistently repeated.

THE laboratories which have been lately erected at Trinity College, through the munificence of Sir William Clarke, are now nearly completed, and will be ready for the use of students by the beginning of the University term. Mr. J. B. Lillie Mackay, who has recently arrived from England, has been appointed college lecturer on practical and medical chemistry. Mr. Mackay is a science scholar and exhibitioner of King's College, London, and held for some time the post of demonstrator of practical chemistry at the Royal School of Mines in Jermyn-street. Mr. C. Dyring, B.A., of Melbourne University, has been appointed assistant-lecturer in the same department. Mr. A. H. S. Lucas, M.A.,

natural science scholar of Balliol College, Oxford, and bachelor of science, London University, will take charge of the biological laboratory, and will be assisted by Mr. R. N. Smith, B.A., of Melbourne University, who has been appointed to the post of demonstrator. With the view of assisting medical students in their University work, arrangements have been made by the college authorities for the delivery of regular courses of lectures in physiological chemistry and histology during the present year. The greater part of the science teaching will be given in the evening, so as not to clash with the lectures at the University.

New South Wales.

THE meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society was held on the 9th inst.; the president (Mr. W. Larmer) in the chair. Also present—Messrs. Mayne, Macarthy, Watt, Bozon, and Pratt. Several applications for membership were considered, the following being granted :—John Watt, of Kempsey; J. A. R. Elmslie, of Nymager; J. G. Erler, of Nyngan; H. P. C. Corrick, of the Paterson; E. D. Marshall, of Burwood. Special examination day was fixed for the 23rd prox.

Owing to the recent political crisis, and to the almost bankrupt state our finances have been reduced to by the wanton expenditure of the late Cabinet, it is proposed by the Government that an *ad valorem* duty be put on imported goods in order to assist in meeting the deficit. On the 10th inst. Mr. Copeland moved as a concomitant to resolution to go into committee of supply that, as a means of raising additional revenue, it would be judicious to fix an import duty of 10 per cent. *ad valorem* on the following goods which affect the chemist. There is, of course, a long list of others, but it is useless to enumerate them all:—Brushes, combs, toilet soap, corks, bungs, drugs, medicines and apothecaries' wares, surgical instruments, and indiarubber goods. Thus you will see that, in supplying his share in this troublesome deficit, the chemist is to really pay more than his share, as, from the above list, everything we sell or keep is included in the list.

The revised list of poisons, as recommended by the Pharmaceutical Board of New South Wales, is causing a great deal of adverse comment. I should like to ask how much, during the whole course of their colonial experience, have any of the members of the board sold over the counter to retail customers, not in the form of dispensed prescriptions—sem. conii, nux vomica, Calabar beans, sem. crotonis, elaterium? That they are poisons, of course, I am aware, but so are ac. mur, ac. sulph, ac. nil, colchicum, and almost any drug found in a drug store. Why not include camphor? Fatal accidents have happened even in Australia from eating this drug. That iodine, podophyllum, potass iiodid, potass bromid, santonine, scammony, stramonium, valerian, and acetic acid should be included in the list is almost too ridiculous to comment upon; whilst red precipitate, white precipitate, carbolic acid, sulphates of zinc and copper are so largely used by the general public, and fatal cases from the mal-administration of them so seldom, that the object desired could not be possibly gained, as the quantities sold would be quite as great, and opportunities for would-be suicides not in the least diminished. This statement, as regards the above drugs, cannot justly, and on the same grounds, be applied to such poisons as strychnine, laudanum, corrosive sublimate, &c., since, by experience, all "chemists" know for what purpose they are required, and everyone, even the uninitiated, recognise the fact that there should be some

propositions taken in the case of the last mentioned drugs. When the evidence board are thus considering, in the interests of the public or their own, to prevent customers from receiving the drugs mentioned in their box, why should they be so particular? Why not when they include them, if they are less reliable because of impurities where? No one expects, however, that the recommendations of the board will be accepted in

The milk supplied in Sydney and surroundings has again been brought into prominence recently. A raid was made by the Federal officer early one morning in all the milk carts he could locate boxes in consequence of several complaints which had been made as to the poverty of the milk supplied. Samples were taken with names and addresses attached. These samples were all analyzed with the result that in some cases it was found that the milk contained at least a third water. This is not so in all cases. One or two have stood the test of the microscope and analysis, but in most cases the percentage of water found was from 5 per cent to 30 per cent, or even more, whilst the butter fat per cent, cream per cent, &c., were correspondingly low. In the most flagrant cases the offenders have been treated pretty severely at the hands of the magistrates.

From the Sydney Mail of Friday of last February I see that the committee of the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts have formed a sub-committee for the express purpose of informing those members of the School of Arts who have experience to lay them before them to be looked up and if possible, remedied.

That dreadful scourge the cholera is again ravaging China since the telegraph advised us that it had appeared in the Peiping Islands. Under the head of Homeopathy in Europe, the other day I dropped across the following, and think I copied it down as might be of some use:—“When Antonius van Leeuwenhoek in 1684-85 Hookean was studying the ‘germinal’ in association with microscope discovered that clearly in the bodies the symptoms of the disease. The man he is found to be rampant and before he had ever seen a case of cholera studied at the death cases of persons who had died in the year 1661, and observed the extent any of the toxins in each of the bodies most immediately after his death. This bold physician that sample was the model for the first stage of cholera was soon tested in Holland and Moravia and rampant and soon began to appear, and subsequently in the most efficient remedy called cholera. I may add that a few years later in 1662 when doctors had tested the body of a former patient the effect of rampant in the art of cholera and cases were a visit of visiting a pest.

There is very little personal to justify this remark.

Mr. H. C. G. Dunn, writer in support of his remarks.

Mr. Dunhill, late of Pitt-street, Woolloomooloo, and who has lately opened a new establishment at North Sydney, has composed of the “Western Committee” of a Mr. Lutzeau.

Mr. Lutzeau of Pitt-street, Sydney, has opened another new shop in Pitt-street, opposite Pitt and George opposite Circular Quay.

Mr. F. G. G. Lutzeau, who is at the age of 21, is the son of the old master, who is now 80 of the business.

Mr. Lutzeau of Pitt-street has decided to sell

a chain of 1000000 sovereigns. Mr. Wm. B. B. Limited will last Saturday last auctioneer out in Queen's Park. The vendor was delighted also, with a very interesting sale. They came in pairs of 1000000 sovereigns and some gold coins.

Jeremiah Sullivan has been committed for trial at Sydney on a coroner's warrant for the murder of his wife's illegitimate child by administering chloroform to it.

A WHOLE family, residing at Murrurundi, was accidentally poisoned by eating some tinned herrings. One member died in great agony, and six others were in a very critical condition.

MR. J. POOCK, of Young, was entertained at a farewell dinner prior to his departure for England. Mr. Poock was presented with an illuminated address as a small token of the estimation in which he was held by his fellow-townsmen.

THE SYDNEY BOARD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

TECHNOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

THE annual examination of the classes at the Sydney Technical College and branch Technical schools in country districts was held during the months of December, 1885, and January, 1886. There were 1012 entries for these examinations, being 881 for the first year, and 131 for the second year, or 422 more than in 1884. The following list contains the names of successful competitors who have been passed by the board on the recommendation of the examiners, but there are a number of other candidates whose cases will be considered at a meeting to be held on Wednesday next:—

In the subjects which are interesting to the trade the following gentlemen were successful:—

BOTANY.—Grade I.—Septimus C. Lindley. Grade II.—William Granger.

CHEMISTRY.—Practical—First Year—Grade I.—Edward Wright. Grade II.—Alfred R. Bowie, Charles A. Finch, Edward Tooth. Theoretical—Second Year—Grade II.—John H. Campbell, Edmund Henry. First Year—Grade I.—William H. Gaunt. Grade II.—Alfred R. Bowie, William Sayer, Charles A. Finch.

PHARMACY.—First Year—Grade I.—William H. Gaunt. Grade II.—Arthur G. Fairfax, Walter Death, Alfred E. Sharpe, Thomas W. Gordon, William T. Wearne, William Morrison, Charles F. Dunn. Second Year—Grade II.—Joseph H. Burnett, Richard Holmes, William S. Clifton.

South Australia.

12th February, 1886.

THE postponed monthly meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia was held on 12th February. Present: Mr. Harrison, president, in the chair, and Messrs. Grummet, L. Scammel, Main, Wood, Parker, Evans, Horton, Woodman, Syme, White, and Cooper.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and, after several applications for membership had been dealt with, the president called attention to the action of the committee at their last meeting, particulars of which were already in the hands of members, and asked the adoption of the motions then passed. Accordingly, Mr. White proposed, and Mr. L. Scammel, seconded—“That any person having been engaged for not less than ten years as a dispensing assistant shall be eligible, at the discretion of the committee, to be elected a Member on payment of one guinea, provided that such application be made during the first three months of the present year.” Carried.

Proposed by Mr. Cooper, and seconded by Mr. Parker—"That the date for the payment of subscriptions for the present year be extended to the 28th of February." Carried.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the editor of the *Chemist and Druggist* for his offer to obtain specimens for the museum of the society, and also for the gift of the "Diary" to the library.

Mr. White then said that there was no rule entitling those associates who pass the higher examinations to the privilege of membership, and proposed the following—"All associates who shall have passed the examination for the title of pharmaceutical chemist shall be entitled to membership of the society upon payment of the members' fee."

Seconded and approved, to be confirmed at two future meetings.

Mr. L. Scammel was congratulated upon his recent attainment, and, after one or two minor matters had been discussed, the meeting terminated.

Very much interest was shown at the above meeting of the society in several choice specimens of drugs and chemicals kindly lent for inspection by Messrs. Faulding and Co., and A. M. Bickford and Sons, especially in a fine lot of nitrate of silver crystals, prepared from Silverton ore by Mr. L. Scammel, of Messrs. Faulding and Co. These crystals looked particularly pure, and certainly do credit to the maker, whose recent election as Fellow of the Chemical Society of London will, no doubt, be a matter for congratulation to many of your readers.

The Pharmaceutical Society here is now in possession of a room of its own, situated in Industrial Chambers, King William-street. This has been neatly furnished by the committee, and it is intended shortly to erect suitable shelving, cases, &c., for the reception of specimens and books.

Among casual observations it may be worth while recording that the senior house surgeon of the Adelaide Hospital has drawn the attention of the Hospital board to the fact that three men suffering from typhoid fever had been recently sent by rail from the far north, and that, as the complaint was in the diarrhoeal stage, centres of infection had probably been established at various railway stations and elsewhere on the route. This is well worth attention, as typhoid manifests itself severely at times in South Australia.

Dr. Astles, of Adelaide, has just published a small work going over the old ground of the usefulness of intoxicants or otherwise, and seems to find something to say which strict abstainers will not like.

A small weevil grub, not the codlin moth, is doing great damage to the apples at Gumeracha, South Australia, and has destroyed both trees and fruit. A plan is going to be tried of boring the trees and filling the holes with bisulphide of carbon.

Tasmania.

14th February, 1886.

In our previous article we endeavoured to put plainly before our readers the position of the Tasmanian chemists, and now we intend discussing the reasons against their status being raised by an Act similar to that existing in Victoria and Queensland, which will not only designate them as "chemists or pharmacists," instead of "vendors of poisons," but also give them the power to govern themselves, instead of being connected with the Court of Medical Examiners, who have no interests in common with them, and who might at some future time formulate regulations hostile to the interests of pharmacists. The most

important argument brought forward by the northern association against legislation is that the proviso "providing a penalty of £2 and upwards against anyone, not being a registered vendor of poisons, retailing drugs and patent medicines, if residing within four miles of such vendor of poisons," might be struck out of any new Act. Now, if Parliament makes provisions and restrictions for the proper qualification of chemists, as it naturally must do, it follows that in exchange for these restrictions, such as a long apprenticeship and strict impartial examination, some privilege must be given. Although we are opposed to monopoly, still no privilege can be given so equitably without harming any business now existing as the sole right of retailing these articles by one trade. The grocers, the only people who are supposed to be opponents of the present system, have never complained, and there is no reason to suppose they would offer any opposition to a similar clause in the new bill. At any rate legislation might be attempted, and, if too much opposition was shown by the members, there would be time enough to make an alteration then, and not before. The remaining point for consideration at our hands is that of the government of pharmacists, and, being equally as important, we shall make a proposal in our next which will satisfy the jealousy which is supposed to exist between north and south, and lead to the two associations working amicably together in passing through both Houses of Parliament a bill which shall be not only a boon to the pharmacists but to the public in general.

In the Hobart *Mercury* we see a writer, under the *nom de plume* of "Vaseline," parading a grievance that "persons not having passed the examination of the examiners are allowed to carry on business, or to manage branch businesses." This is quite true, and a grievance which would be remedied at once by a new Act, but, at the same time, it is a point of law whether the Act, as it at present stands, does not prevent other than one licensed by the Court of Examiners from retailing drugs at all. We believe this is a grievance that will be brought forward by the hon. secretary of the Hobart Association in his annual report, to be read on 17th February. A very great piece of negligence on the part of the Government is to be traced to them in not appointing a qualified dispenser for the gaol or, at least, obtain their medicines properly dispensed at the General Hospital. We read in last week's *Mercury* that any ordinary prisoner, without any knowledge of pharmacy whatever, was in the habit of dispensing for his unfortunate companions. Surely they suffer sufficiently in being confined for their evil doings! Then why should the continual dread of a mistake being made by such an amateur dispenser ever be present to the mind of a sick man as an additional punishment! We hope the mere mentioning of this grave matter, combined with the representation of the coroner, Dr. Crowther, will be the signal for its instant cessation, and thus prevent us some day having to chronicle an unfortunate death by "misadventure."

The first meeting of the Federal Council has passed off successfully, and, although the members have not gone in for bold legislation, still their labours must yield good fruit to those colonies who have Imperial federation at heart, and earnestly desire to see rise in the future a truly "Federated Australian Dominion," which, in the future, will prove to be the gem of the many possessions of the British Empire. In Tasmania the spirit of federation has taken great hold, the good work having been aided by the *Mercury* publishing daily verbatim reports of the council's proceedings, which have been eagerly and, we hope, profitably read by all true Tasmanians. In bidding farewell to the council for this year, we trust that next year all the colonies will send representatives according to their population, and endeavour to carry out the

meaning of federation in its truest sense, by assimilating the tariffs, codifying the laws, and bringing forward proposals for the benefit of Australasia generally.

We hear Mr. A. P. Miller intends to go to the old country next month for the benefit of his health. Mr. Miller thoroughly deserves this holiday, and, we trust, will return restored to permanent good health, and able to take as active a part in public matters as he has done in the past. The association in him lose a representative whose advice and energy will be much missed, especially in the coming year of reform. In wishing Mr. Miller and his family *bon voyage* and a speedy return, we feel we are only re-echoing the wishes of every member of the profession in Hobart.

A girl died at Launceston last week through eating two and a half boxes of wax matches.

THE chairman of the board of the Hobart General Hospital, the Hon. Dr. Smart, was entertained at dinner on 5th ult. by his brother members of the board. The Premier, the Chief Secretary, the Treasurer, and other representative local notables were present.

Mr. Bushman has instituted an investigation into the recent outbreak of typhoid at Inveresk. A house to house visitation showed the fever to exist in every family whose milk supply had been obtained from the sources complained of. Two houses were found to be exempt from the disease, although situated in the midst of others which were infected. In one of these cases no milk of any kind was used, while imported condensed milk only had been taken.

The following letter recently appeared in the Hobart *Mercury* on the employment of unqualified dispensers:—

"Sir,—Can any one inform me how it is the law relating to pharmacy is so frequently broken, and nothing whatever done to punish the offenders? In Tasmania we have an Act passed as far back as 1842 to this effect—that no one is entitled to practice as physician or surgeon, for fee or reward, unless his name is on the register, or to dispense medicines, unless he has the license of the Court of Medical Examiners, granted only after due examination, and yet there are several who have never qualified, either in business for themselves as chemists and druggists, or acting as managers of others, the public appearing perfectly satisfied in risking their lives in the hands of these unqualified dispensers. I am quite sure the doctors would never allow any person to practice medicine or surgery unless he could produce the necessary certificate of qualification, and why should the pharmacists be so dozy as to suffer their rights to be taken from them? It seems very hard to qualified men, who have honestly fulfilled the Act, by serving four years' apprenticeship to qualified chemists, and, after lengthy studies, passed their examinations, to find others who never qualified holding responsible positions equal if not better than their own. The Chemists' Association, if such exists, should apply to the police for the necessary remedy without delay.—Yours, etc.,

VASELINE.

8th February.

THE *American Journal of Pharmacy* quotes Mr. George F. H. Markoe as authority for the statement that when alcoholic preparations are combined with hydrate of chloral, especially in connection with the bromides of potassium and sodium, a separation is likely to occur in the mixture, the chloral forming an alcoholic and floating on the surface. Hence the danger of an overdose is suggested.

New Zealand.

STEPS are being taken to establish a school of mines at Queenstown.

"QUACK! QUACK!"—Says the *Otago Witness*—"A patent medicine vendor has been travelling through the district disposing of an immense quantity of his unfailing remedies, or 'cure-all's.' The belief of the unsophisticated country resident in these nostrums is really surprising. A neighbour troubled with that ailment, described by Burns as 'the hell o' a' diseases,' purchased some specifics, warranted to cure. He has tried them, and now anathematises that 'medicine man' as a fraud, and his wares a delusion. He has since interviewed a qualified practitioner and had his dental economy arranged on correct principles. After all, the world grows little wiser in these matters, and the 'half-rogues and half-fools' theory still holds good."

Mr. A. Kamnitzer has purchased the business of Mr. J. M. Cambridge, Ashburton.

Mr. N. Dodds has started business in Oamaru.

Mrs. Robinson, of Cashel-street, Christchurch, who has carried on the business of her late husband for some years, has sold out to Mr. J. S. Cooke.

Mr. Jos. Stevens, of Christchurch, is about to dispose of his business in view of his departure for England.

Christchurch is soon to have a class for the study of *materia medica*, the management being the same as that of the pharmaceutical chemistry class of last winter.

Queensland.

In the report for 1885 of the Brisbane Friendly Associated Societies' Dispensary, presented on the occasion of the election of office-bearers for the current year, there was this satisfactory paragraph:—"The management of the dispensary is still in the able hands of Mr. W. R. Colledge, A.L.P.S., to whose skilful and assiduous attention the prosperous results are largely due." The representatives of the various societies interested gave more emphatic expression to their appreciation of Mr. Colledge's abilities by voting him a bonus.

The annual report of the Townsville Hospital shows the death rate for the year to have been one in eleven of the patients treated, or about 9 per cent. This only included the in-door patients. The subscribers recommended to the new committee the suggestion that some trained nurses should be procured from one of the London hospitals.

An inquiry is to be held upon the mismanagement and extravagance alleged against the Maryborough Polynesian Hospital.

Some trouble has arisen at Ingham in connection with the new hospital, in consequence of the planters' endeavours to get the Asiatic labourers admitted into the European quarters.

Mr. Vaughan has disposed of his Southport business to Mr. Moore, late of Mitchell. Mr. Vaughan removes to Rockhampton, where he succeeds Mr. Meade.

Mr. Roland has started business in Maryborough, having sold out of Bundaberg to Mr. J. Davidson, late of Stanthorpe.

Mr. A. Scowen, of Sydney, has purchased Mr. Von Berger's Minton business.

Messrs. Atkinson and Powell have taken possession of their splendid new premises at Townsville.

Mr. P. N. Taylor, a new arrival from the "little village," has commenced business at Charters Towers; Mr. J. Evans has set up at Rosewood; and a new business has been started at Marburg by Mr. L. W. Camb, lately of Sydney.

The death is announced of Mrs. Costin, mother of Mr. W. J. Costin, the well-known chemist, of Brisbane.

A woman named Ruth Robinson was brought up at the Roma Police-court on Monday, the 8th February, charged with the murder of her former husband, Robert Birkett, in December, 1883. Frances Martindale, a married sister of the prisoner, deposed that between the 15th and 25th December the prisoner administered doses of white precipitate and oxalic acid to Birkett in soup, and on the night of the 1st January gave him laudanum in a sleeping draught, which killed him. The witness acknowledged that she knew that the poisoning was going on, and did nothing to stop it. At the close of her evidence the police magistrate ordered her into the dock as an accessory. She was charged as such, and remanded.

Notes and Abstracts.

CHINESE TOOTHACHE POWDER.

WITH reference to Chinese toothache powder, Mr. F. P. Smith writes to the *Pharmaceutical Journal* that he has seen it prepared with the flowers of andromeda polifolia, Azalea species, but never with flowers of Hyoscyamus or Datura. Mr. Smith adds:—This mixture of powdered aconite root (two species, one from sechuen, as well as a commoner variety) and these flowers are very efficacious in relieving the pain of toothache, gum-boils, faceache, &c. Arum root, the seeds of a cannabis and those of a Datura (man-to-lo), are also much used for the same purpose. The Chinese *Machaon Hwato* used these anæsthetic powders previous to operations, and also gave wine in which they had been previously steeped for a longer or shorter time. I have known many merchants trading in China who have obtained singular relief from these native nostrums. The Chinese have been giving ingluvin in dyspepsia, and crystallised urea as a diuretic, for ages. Their detection of the value of the tea leaf and of the silk making qualities of the mulberry leaf show that they have considerable powers of observation, especially when the properties under notice lead to good economic results.

SULPHOVINATES IN PHARMACY.

SOME years ago (writes the *Pharmaceutical Record*) sulphovinate of soda was strongly advocated as an elegant aperient, having similar properties to sulphate of soda, but milder and more regular in its action. Dr. Rabuteau, of Paris, first brought it into notice, and it was employed by a large number of French practitioners for some time. Nevertheless, the pharmacists found it both difficult and costly to prepare, and that, even when quite pure, it would not keep well. It was hygroscopic in damp air, and efflorescent in a dry atmosphere. But, more than this, in a variety of circumstances it passed into bisulphate of soda, and so became worthless as a therapeutic agent. In like manner, some fine crystals of sulphovinate of baryta, prepared three years ago, which were quite transparent and perfectly pure at the time of their production, have become opaque and insoluble, having passed into sulphate of baryta. It is, therefore, evident that the sulphovinates are a most unstable class of salts, and must be totally excluded from pharmaceutical preparations.

BROMIDE OF ETHYL AS AN ANÆSTHETIC.

In an article contributed to the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Dr. Lawrence Turnbull expresses his preference for this over sulphuric ether or chloroform in any operations that have yet come under his notice. Thus far he has used it in quantities not to exceed four ounces (by weight) in any one case, nor has the patient been under its influence for forty minutes. Among the advantages claimed for it are that it is without the nauseous after-sickness of sulphuric ether; it is much more prompt in producing anaesthesia; it is, thus far in his experience, without risk to life; it produces no irritation of the throat, coughing, or undue secretion of mucous; complete anaesthesia is usually produced in one minute.

There are certain preparatory precautions which are necessary to the safe inhalation of the bromide of ethyl:

1. All tight-fitting garments in and about the neck and chest should be loosened.

2. The saturated ethyl vapour must be inhaled almost to the exclusion of atmospheric air. The best form of inhaler is a thick towel folded in the form of a cone, closed at the apex with a large pin; between the folds of the towel place a sheet of newspaper.

3. Instruct the patient in advance to make deep and long inspirations. In the cone place about one dram (by measure), and at once cover the nose and mouth with it, and do not remove the cone until anaesthesia is produced, which will be in from twenty to thirty seconds.

The anaesthetic sleep will not last more than from two to three minutes. The patient retains the usual healthy colour of lips and skin, and the pulse first becomes rapid, then slower and stronger as the narcosis becomes profound. The patient, as a rule, awakens suddenly and completely; but if there is nausea or much agitation it is best for him to remain quiet and in a horizontal posture for some time.

LACTIC ACID AND TUBERCULAR LARYNGITIS.

FROM the *British Medical Journal* we learn that in a discussion which recently took place in the Berlin Medical Society on the value of lactic acid in laryngeal tuberculosis, Dr. Krause stated that of fourteen undoubted cases he had treated in this way some were improved and some completely cured. The least satisfactory cases were those where the posterior wall of the larynx was affected; also, those where there was a lesion below the vocal cords, which could not be well brought under the influence of the application. The voice-improved, also the power of swallowing and the general condition of the patients. Dr. Rosenberg confirmed the statements of Dr. Krause as to the good effects of lactic acid; but he, for his own part, was still more satisfied with the results of a twenty per cent. solution of menthol. He was also treating pulmonary phthisis with menthol inhalations. Dr. Lublinski had had a certain amount of success with lactic acid, but found that after the ulcers had healed they again broke out. Professor Virchow pointed out that when these ulcerations healed, a cicatrix only was formed, not true mucous membrane. He hoped that further observations on this subject might be made, especially on cases that had healed for some time.

REPORT OF THE ENGLISH CHOLERA COMMISSION.

THE *British Medical Journal* thus summarises the conclusions adopted by the committee to which the report of Drs. Klein and Heneage Gibbes on the "Etiology of Asiatic Cholera" was submitted by the India Office:—1. Comma-

shaped organisms are ordinarily present in the dejections of persons suffering from cholera, but not in the blood, the intestinal mucous membrane, or any other tissue. 2. Comma-shaped organisms of closely allied morphological appearances are ordinarily present in different parts of the alimentary canal in health, and are developed in an unusual extent in certain diseases in which there is copious intestinal secretion; the predominant form in any given case depending in great measure on the nature of such secretion. 3. The comma-shaped bacilli ordinarily found in cholera do not induce that disease in the lower animals, and there are no real grounds for assuming that they do so in man. 4. The committee expressed its "conviction that sanitary measures in their true sense, and sanitary measures alone, are the only trustworthy means to prevent outbreaks of the disease, and to restrain its spread and mitigate its severity when it is prevalent." Our contemporary adds the following observations made by Sir William Gull at the second meeting of the committee. "It was," he said, "becoming more and more probable that sanitary measures might destroy the conditions upon which the existence and spread of the cholera poison depended. . . . In other words, we may, in fact, be able to defend ourselves against the invasion of cholera before science has discovered the essential cause of the disease."

A PENSION of £300 per annum has been offered to Professor Huxley in recognition of his eminent scientific services.

CHINAMEN are being systematically boycotted in every town on the Pacific Coast. Opium "joints" have increased so fast in the Eastern cities that general alarm is felt."

THE people of Havre, as a mark of gratitude for his services, and a contribution towards the expenses of his scientific investigations, have voted M. Pasteur a donation of £1000.

CHARLES D. BRADLEY, a Chicago physician, has become insane by the use of the new anaesthetic cocaine, and has physically ruined his wife and five children by experiments with the drug.

A UNIVERSITY for women, endowed by private funds, has been opened at St. Petersburg, with a laboratory for chemistry and a study furnished with all the appliances necessary for the pursuit of the physical sciences.

THE death is announced in London of Miss F. Helen Prideaux, M.B., from diphtheria, after a week of severe illness. Miss Prideaux was one of the most distinguished of the women who have graduated in medicine at the University of London.

As is well known, ammon. aromat., when added to codide, prevents nasal catarrh, and enables the codide to be borne by patients who could not otherwise take it. We (*Bull. Gen. de Thérapent.*) believe we owe this suggestion to Sir James Paget. Dr. Aubert now recommends belladonna in the form of pills in dose of ten centigrammes. Aubert bases his recommendation of this remedy on the well-known physiological effect of belladonna.

A NEW basis for ointments has recently been described by Dr. Oscar Liebrich in a paper read before the Berlin Medical Society. To this basis the name of "Lanolin" has been given. It is stated to be a mixture of cholesterin fat (from tissues containing keratin, such as sheep's wool in particular) and water. The pure cholesterin fat has the advantages of being capable of taking up its own bulk of water, and of being readily absorbed by the skin. It is also not readily decomposed. It is, in fact, the natural fat of the skin, and of epidermal tissues generally, such as hard hoofs of horses, feathers, &c., from all of which it is obtained. From glycerine fats it is distinguished by

Liebemann's cholestol test. The fat is dissolved in acetic anhydride (not glacial acetic acid). To the solution sulphuric acid is added, when the mixture assumes a rose colouration, passing quickly into dark blue and green. By adding five or ten per cent. of glycerine or ordinary fat to Lanolin its unctuous character is improved.

A WRITER in the *Russkaia Meditz* says that he has had great success in the cure of over three hundred cases of acute and chronic catarrh, or cold in the head, by the use of ice-cold water. The legs, from the knee downward, are washed with it in the morning and at night, and rubbed vigorously with a coarse towel. It is necessary to do this for two days only, and many patients are said to have been cured in one day.

IN the *Union Médicale*, Dr. Cyon confirms the statement, made by Dumas in 1878, that borax is possessed of most valuable antiseptic powers. Independently of its value for the preservation of food, it is a great preventive of infectious diseases, and may be employed internally to ward off epidemics. It may be taken for months or years with impunity, and constitutes a valuable prophylactic. Dr. Cyon states that it is a remarkable fact that in all epidemics of cholera the workmen in boracic acid factories have escaped the disease. The usual dose is five or six grammes (75 to 90 grains) daily, taken for an indefinite time.

THE juice of the walnut rind has been used from time immemorial as a hair dye. Bernschen and Semper have recently communicated to the Berlin Chemical Society a method of preserving it for use in the shape of a hydroglucoside, prepared as follows:—The rinds of the ripe nut are digested in sulphuric ether until their colouring matter is extracted. A solution of chromic acid in water is added to the ether solution, and the mixture is thoroughly agitated. The ether is then distilled off, and the residue purified by solution, first in hot ether, and afterward in a mixture of chloroform and petroleum ether, from which latter it is obtained in a crystalline form as hydrogen glucoside. This substance colours the hair and skin exactly as does the juice of the fresh rind.

THE *Medical and Surgical Reporter* supports the observation that, while the excessive imbibition of iced water (especially when one is warm) is not to be commended, the unlimited use of pure spring water, at its natural temperature, is not very conducive to health, but has an actual tendency to favour a fullness and roundness of body.

QUANTITATIVE VALUATION OF RESIN IN SOAP.—This method is based upon the behaviour of sodium chloride to separate out the fat soap only, while the resin soap is retained in solution. Dr. Heiner's experiments made with soap containing 20 per cent. of resin have on an average 1½ per cent. less of resin. Two samples of equal weight are treated; one is decomposed with $H_2 SO_4$, and the fatty acids containing the resin are weighed. Dissolve the other sample in water, treat with solution of NaCl, separate the liquid containing the resin and glycerine from the soap mass, wash with solution of NaCl, dissolve again in water, precipitate again, wash repeatedly with the salt solution, and decompose the pure soap with $H_2 SO_4$, and weigh. The difference in weight of the two results gives the weight of the resin.—*Monit. Scientif.*

SCOPOLINE, an alkaloid obtained from the root of the *Scopolia Japonica*, which has several times appeared in English commerce under the Japanese belladonna root, has been used in France as a mydriatic. It is said to dilate the pupils more rapidly than atropine, its action lasting longer, the pupils being more dilated on the third day than after the instillation of atropine. It appears to have no irritative action on the conjunctiva, and is a strong antagonist to the action of eserine.

CULTIVATION OF PEPPERMINT IN MICHIGAN.—From his personal observations in the peppermint plantations, and from information received from mint growers, Dennis Reagan, Ph.G., describes the cultivation to be the same as was stated by M. Fred. Stearns, in 1858 (see *Amer. Jour. Phar.*, 1859, p. 35), except that the planting is done annually, the runners of the preceding year being used for the purpose. If the plants are raised from seeds in a nursery, they are reset every two years. Peppermint does not sprout freely after the second year, unless the soil is very rich and loose, and the preceding summer has been wet and warm, or the ground is boggy.—*American Journal of Pharmacy*.

THE benzin odour of old syrup of tolu is attributed to the action of the calcium salts of ordinary water on the balsam of tolu at a higher temperature. M. Labre bases his observation on Mitscherlich's synthesis of benzin—*i.e.*, distilling benzoate of calcium with quicklime, thus forming carbonate of calcium and benzin, $C_{14}H_6O_4 + 2 CaO = 2 (CaO, CO_2) + C_{12}H_6$. Syrup of tolu made with distilled water does not acquire a benzin odour on standing.—*Répert de Phar.*, October, 1885, p. 438.

IMPURITIES IN ETHER.—Boerrigter confirms the statement of other authors that ether frequently contains hydrogen peroxide and aldehyde. Ether should be kept in dry, tightly corked bottles. The ozone produced by the evaporation of ether, if water is present, converts it into hydrogen peroxide. Pure ether is not discoloured by caustic potash, nor is alcohol affected by it unless air has access, when possibly aldehyde is formed.—*Phar. Zeit. f. Russl.*, xxiv., p. 584.

LACTIC acid is recommended by Dr. W. Lurtz (*Prag. Med.-Wochensch.*) in the treatment of lupus, he having used it successfully in four cases. The new remedy, iodol, is also said to have been found when injected into the surrounding tissues to prevent the same disease from spreading. For this purpose 1 part of iodol is dissolved in 16 of alcohol and 34 parts of glycerine added.—*Pharm. Journal*.

SALICYLATE of lithium is reported (*Lancet*, 19th December, p. 1161) to have been used by M. Vulpian with advantage in certain forms of rheumatism that prove rebellious to treatment with salicylate of sodium. The lithium salt is prescribed in the same doses as the sodium salt, though it contains a larger proportion of salicylic acid; but it is stated that the difference in physiological action is not referable to this fact. The administration of salicylate of lithium is said not to be followed by noises in the head, but a simple deafness, headache, giddiness, and intestinal disturbance.—*Pharmaceutical Journal*.

CONSIDERABLE attention has lately been directed to the liability of cocaine solutions to develop microdermic growths, which have been suspected of causing local inflammation and other objectionable effects when such solutions were used for application to the eye. A case is also reported in the *Chicago Medical Journal* in which dangerous symptoms were produced by the application of cocaine to the nostrils to relieve hay fever. Some minutes afterwards the patient became dizzy and semi-comatose, the pupils being widely dilated and the temperature high. By the administration of stimulants (brandy and ammonia) and digitalis she recovered in about three hours, and next day experienced no further ill effects from the drug.—*Pharmaceutical Journal*.

THE failure of some cantharidal preparations to produce the effect desired is due occasionally, says Dr. Squibb (*Ephemeris*, December, p. 870), to the condition of the surface of the skin to which they are applied. He points out that as cantharidin is insoluble in water a very thin film of moisture may prevent it from coming into effectual contact with the cuticle. He recommended that before application of a cantharidal preparation the skin should be cleansed from excretions by soap and water, or, preferably, dilute acetic acid.—*Pharmaceutical Journal and Transactions*.

THE ANNUAL CRICKET MATCH.

THE annual cricket match, Wholesale *v.* Retail Chemists, was held on the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Tuesday, the 16th February. There was a much larger attendance than on any previous occasion, the wholesale firms having closed at noon. The day being beautifully fine, play was commenced shortly after twelve o'clock. The captain of the Wholesale team having won the toss, sent his men to the wickets. At half-past one an adjournment was made for lunch, the wholesale chemists this year being the entertainers. An excellent lunch was provided, and a large number of guests (about 120) filled the tables. Mr. F. S. Grimwade occupied the chair, and, after the usual loyal toast, proposed the health of the "Retail Chemists," which was drank with great cheering. Mr. C. R. Blackett next gave the toast of the "Wholesale Firms," which was responded to by Mr. H. Rocke, Mr. Duerdin, and Mr. Tompsitt. The health of the "Chairman" (Mr. F. S. Grimwade), was proposed by Mr. Bowen, and drank with musical honours, Mr. Grimwade responding. An adjournment was then made to the cricket field, and the match resumed. The following are the scores, the match resulting in a draw:—

WHOLESALE.

Hewitt, c and b Champion ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Keogh, b Ross ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Boothroyd, st Cooper, b Champion ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Treadaway, not out ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	150
Dunstone, b Pleasance ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Chapman, b Champion ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Moss, b Gabriel ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Harper, b Champion ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Morrison, l b w, b Pleasance ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Court, b Ross ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
M'Williams, c Gabriel, b Ross ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Sundries ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
 Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	270

RETAIL.

M'Kie, b Moss ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Champion, b Court ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Gabriel, l b w, b Court ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Cooper, l b w, b Moss ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Cattach, c Boothroyd, b Dunstone ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
Hope, c Moss, b Treadaway ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Davis, not out ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Ross, b Moss ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Caught, b Moss ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Pleasance, not out ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Sundries ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
 Total, with two wickets to fall ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	96

PROFESSOR TYNDALL endeavours to explain the immunity obtained against a second attack of a contagious disease by advancing the opinion that the rarity of second attacks of communicable disease was due to the removal from the system, by the first parasite crop, of some ingredient necessary to the growth and propagation of the parasite.

CHEMISTS AND DRUGGISTS' TRADE ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN.

At a meeting of the executive committee of the above society, held at Birmingham on 14th December last, a prolonged discussion took place anent the position of the society in regard to opposing the registration of trade marks. In consequence of the funds not being adequate to give the necessary security required by law on the initiation of legal proceedings in such cases, and the members of the society having failed to respond to applications for pecuniary aid, it was agreed not to offer any further opposition to the registration of proposed trade marks.

The other item on the notice paper having an interest for Australasian pharmacists was—"To consider the advisability of steps being taken by the association to amend the Patent Medicine Stamp Acts in such a manner as to exempt from liability to stamp duty all medicines the composition of which is shown on the label covering them, notwithstanding that they may be recommended 'for the cure or relief of any disorder,' leaving 'secret or occult' preparations *only* liable to duty." A motion was carried affirming the desirability of endeavouring to have the proposition made law.

Legal and Magisterial.

EXTRAORDINARY CASE OF POISONING BY MORPHIA.

A MAGISTERIAL inquiry was held in the courthouse, Stawell, on the 12th February, before Mr. B. S. Dawson, J.P., touching the death of a young man named Richard Goatley, residing at Wallaloo, aged 23 years. Sergeant Ryan watched the proceedings on behalf of the Crown, and Mr. Hardy, of Ballarat, attended in the interest of Dr. John Tremearne, of Creswick.

The circumstances alleged were that Goatley was a patient of Tremearne's, and received from him a powder purporting to be salicylate of soda, but which proved to be morphia. A dose was administered to Goatley by a young brother, and he was shortly afterwards overpowered by the effects of the drug, apparent sleepiness being induced. All efforts to rouse the deceased proving futile, Drs. Syme and Fleming, local physicians, were called in, and Dr. Tremearne was communicated with by telegram. The former detected symptoms of narcotic poisoning, and Dr. Tremearne having replied that he might possibly have mistaken a bottle of morphia for one containing salicylate of soda, emetics were applied, but without avail, and Goatley died shortly before midnight on Wednesday. The following evidence was produced at the inquiry:—

Robert Goatley stated that the deceased was his brother, and that he accompanied him to a local practitioner, who stated that he was suffering from heart disease. The two then went on to Dr. Tremearne, at Creswick, who examined Goatley, and prescribed a powder and two bottles of medicine. The witness and his brother then returned to Stawell, and on the following morning, according to directions given by Dr. Tremearne, witness gave his brother an eighth-part of the powder. The deceased then had breakfast, after which he returned to his room, and lay down on his bed. Witness shortly after found him in an unconscious sleep, and failing to arouse him, ran for a doctor. Dr. Syme came and saw Goatley, whom he roused, his lips being blue and projecting. Witness' sister threw the remainder of the powder into the fire

when she discovered its effects on her brother. There was no word "poison" on the wrapper round the powder, although the deceased told witness to be careful in dividing it.

Dr. W. H. Syme deposed that he was called by the last witness to attend his brother shortly before ten on Wednesday morning, and was told by him what had occurred. He threw some water on his face and roused him. He appeared drowsy, and told witness about his visit to Creswick. His pupils were contracted, but not much. Witness tasted the powder, which had a pure bitter taste, and might have contained morphia. Witness gave orders that the patient was not to be allowed to sleep, and went away. He was called a few hours after, and found the deceased much worse, as he could not stand. He called into consultation Dr. Fleming. About seven hours after taking the powder the patient's respiration seemed to stop, although the heart was beating strongly. He kept up artificial respiration until near midnight, when Goatley died. On making a *post mortem* examination, in conjunction with Drs. Shuter, Jack, and Fleming, he found the body well nourished and free from disease. The pulmonary orifices were narrowed, which would account for the murmurings heard. Witness believed the cause of death to have been narcotic poisoning.

Dr. H. H. Fleming gave corroborative evidence, stating in addition, in answer to Mr. Hardy, that salicylate of soda was sometimes prepared in such a manner as to be very similar in appearance to morphia.

Dr. John Tremearne, residing at Creswick, related the circumstances of Goatley's visit to him. In making up the powder for Goatley after he had examined him, witness took a small bottle out of a chest, and poured out what he considered 2 or 3 drachms of salicylate of soda, and showed the deceased how to divide it into parts, one of which was to be taken the first thing in the morning. He received a telegram from Mr. Goatley, sen., saying that his son was insensible after taking the powder. Witness then sent the following telegram in reply:—"Cannot imagine why insensible. Powder was meant to be salicylate of soda, but I find there is a bottle exactly similar. Possibly may have made mistake." Acting under legal advice he did not bring the bottles with him.

The depositions taken at the inquest have since been forwarded to the Crown Solicitor, who has referred the papers to the police with directions that a prosecution should be instituted in the usual manner. Proceedings will, therefore, be taken against Dr. Tremearne.

Correspondence.

POISONING BY TINNED FISH!

To the Editor of the Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.

SIR,—A very singular case is reported from South Australia, which looks like an analytical error, and is, in any case, a gross act of presumption and an injustice on the part of a public and irresponsible board.

Certain persons were taken ill *after* having eaten some tinned fish. It was assumed that the fish were the cause of the indisposition. It was therefore sent for analysis. The analyst reported that it "contained" large quantities of oxide of tin, amounting to $\frac{1}{4}$ gr. in a tablespoonful of fish, and also traces of lead ("contained," not yielded). He considered that these compounds might have been formed either by carelessness in using "spirits of salt" for soldering the tin, or by the action of the contents of the tin on the solder.

Now, apart from the fact that "spirits of salt" will not solder tin, and in view of the flux being chloride of Zinc, would it not have been safer to test for Chlorine and zinc before forming the above speculation? And is it not much more probable that a fragment of the solder (itself perfectly harmless) was boiled down with the sample of fish, from which the tin and lead were extracted? And is it not atrocious that upon this very doubtful ground the Board of Health should take upon itself to caution the public against using that particular brand of fish? The exact expression is, "To use great caution in the use of fish bearing this brand." The abominable injustice of this notice is as apparent as its irrationality. But I can add a significant item of information concerning this brand, which has not been very long before the public. It is one of the best going. The makers used to work only for the trade, and goods of the choicest and most expensive brands have come from their works, but they have lately entered the open market.

As I know nothing of the gentleman whose report is quoted, I omit his name, and only subscribe my own.

SYDNEY GIBBONS, F.C.S.

TASMANIAN PHARMACY.

To the Editor of the Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.

DEAR SIR,—I am at a loss to discover how your Tasmanian correspondent should have made so glaring a mistake as he does in his letter dated 10th January, inst., in which he states that the chemist in Tasmania is designated "Dealer in Poisons," and that such has been his title since 1835.

The present Medical Act of the colony requires that anyone who wishes to sell or vend medicines must have served at least three years' apprenticeship, and must pass an examination before the Court of Medical Examiners in all the usual subjects.

In 1857, the year in which I passed, the license given was to enable the holder "To dispense medicines in the island of Tasmania and its dependencies." Since then the verbiage has been altered, and the license now runs, "To vend medicines in the island," &c. Not a word about "dealing in poisons" in either.

As the law stands at present no one must sell or vend any medicine or drug within two miles of any registered chemist. There is no provision for receiving or registering any qualification as a chemist and druggist from any other body but their own Court of Examiners, though I believe this has been done lately, whether lawfully or not I will not argue.—Yours respectfully,

Tasmania, 29th January, 1886.

M.

THE following letter has been received from a student in pharmacy who left this city last year to study medicine in America:—

" Jefferson's Hospital, Philadelphia.

" I am happy to say that I arrived here safe on 27th ult., after having spent two enjoyable months in dear old England. Your letter of introduction to Professor Maisch has been a great help to me. The Professor laid the foundation stone, as it were, and now I am hard at work. We are over six hundred medical students, and are kept well to our work. The first lecture commences at 10 a.m., by Professor Holland, on medical chemistry and toxicology; the second lecture at 11 a.m., by Prof. S. W. Gross, M.D., on the principles of surgery

and clinical surgery. At 12 o'clock Prof. Chapman, M.D., lectures on institute of medicine and medical jurisprudence. At 1 o'clock, lecture on med. clinic.; at 4 o'clock, lecture by Prof. Paucoast, M.D., on general, descriptive, and surgical anatomy; and at 5 o'clock, lecture by Prof. Parvin, M.D., LL.D., on obstetrics and diseases of women and children, so you see that I have plenty of work cut out for me."

Personalities.

MR. HERBERT ROCKE leaves for England in the *Coromandel*, sailing on the 25th February.

THE pharmacy of the late Mr. J. Lamb, at Newmarket, has been sold to Mr. F. P. Fitzgerald.

MR. E. DONAGHY, formerly at the Ballarat Hospital, has opened a new pharmacy at Numurkah.

MR. W. P. SINCLAIR has purchased from Messrs. Harrison and Webb the Armadale branch of their business.

THE pharmacy of Mr. E. Thorby Noakes at Violet Town has changed hands, Mr. J. B. Barker being the purchaser.

MR. ALFRED REEVE, of Ascot Vale, is erecting a new building at Essendon, and intends opening a branch business there shortly.

THE death of Mr. John Lamb, of Newmarket, is announced. Mr. E. P. Plummer is now in charge of the business.

WE regret to record the death of Mr. Frederick Alex. Dunn, of Hawthorn. The deceased for some years carried on the business formerly owned by Mr. Bosisto, in Bridge-road, Richmond.

WE desire to correct an error in our January issue in reference to the paragraph announcing that Dr. J. Anderson was about opening a new pharmacy at Kensington. We learn such is not the case.

MR. W. H. Potts, late of Chiltern, has purchased, through Messrs. Felton, Grimwade and Co., the business lately carried on by Mr. E. G. Hooper, at the corner of Queen and Bourke streets. Mr. Potts is spoken highly of as being an excellent business man.

HERBERT DU RUE, described as a chemist recently from Adelaide, was charged with stealing goods from Messrs. George and George's, where he was employed. The defendant pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to four months' imprisonment. The value of the goods stolen was between £20 and £30.

WE are pleased to learn that Mr. H. M. Martell, an apprentice with Mr. J. W. Scott, of Sturt-street, Ballarat, now in his third year, has been awarded the gold medal given by the Ballarat Chemists' Association to the student at the School of Mines who has shown the best general proficency for the year 1885.

THE proprietors of the *British and Colonial Druggist* have, in connection with their publication, issued a diary for the year 1886, a copy of which has been sent to us. It is nicely got up, and contains a large amount of useful information, and we have heard a great many people express themselves as highly pleased with it.

THE *Warrnambool Standard* of the 5th inst. gives a lengthy description of the premises of Mr. R. T. Kennedy, in Liebeg-street, which is described as being one of the handsomest and most complete pharmacies in the colony.

A high compliment is also paid to the proprietor's energy and enterprise, a sentiment we feel sure will be endorsed by Mr. Kennedy's many friends.

WE have received a copy of Ingham's Central Queensland Almanac for 1886. It is compiled by Mr. Thomas Ingham, Pharmaceutical Chemist of Rockhampton, and contains a very large amount of useful information in its 130 pages of closely printed matter. Mr. Ingham's name is well known throughout Australasia in connection with his preparation of euphorbia pilulifera, the Queensland cure for asthma and bronchitis.

MR. W. SHEPPERSON, of the firm of Burroughs, Wellcome and Co., London, desires to inform his many friends in the colonies that he has safely arrived at Calcutta after a pleasant run from Australia. The only part of the journey that was very hot and uncomfortable was about five days before reaching Ceylon, and an unfortunate three weeks' detention in Colombo, on account of the Calcutta ship *Khedive* having broken her shaft, and being detained an extra eight days at Suez. Under the most favourable circumstances passengers from Australia for Calcutta have to wait ten days at Colombo. This ought to be arranged differently if possible. Mr. Shepperson expects to reach London, via Bombay, at the beginning of April next.

MR. J. HEALE, chemist, of Ballarat, was sued at the Prahran Police Court on the 28th January by W. Godfrey, furniture dealer, for £5 12s. 8d., being the alleged balance due for the hire of furniture. The sum of £17 had been paid off a total amount of £27, when the defendant, being about to remove to Ballarat, returned goods for which he had been charged £15. This, the defendant alleged, closed the whole account; but the complainant stated that the goods were returned on the understanding that he was to value them and place whatever amount he thought fit to defendant's credit. One witness valued them at £3 5s. The bench gave credence to the defendant's version, and made an order in his favour with five guineas costs.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

NELSON.—On the 20th January, at Windsor, the wife of William Y. Nelson of a daughter.

STRUTT.—On the 3rd January, at Powlett-street, East Melbourne, the wife of Samuel Shippam Strutt of a son.

JONES.—On the 25th January, at Lilydale, the wife of John Clark Cunliffe Jones of a son.

PARKIN.—On the 4th February, at Carlton, the wife of Arthur C. Parkin—a son.

MARRIAGE.

WAGHORN—OBBINSON.—On the 8th February, at Christ Church, South Yarra, by the Rev. H. F. Tucker, George Charles Waghorn, relative of the late Lieutenant Waghorn, R.N., Chatham, England, to Marion, only daughter of the late Thos. Obbinson, pharmacist, Toorak.

DEATHS.

EAGLES.—On the 20th January, at High-street, Northcote, Stanhope Wooley, infant son of Fredk. and Adelaide Eagles, aged five weeks.

FARMER.—On the 26th January, at Ararat, Ann, the beloved daughter of R. W. Farmer, chemist, &c., aged 23 years, formerly of Maryborough, Victoria.

DUNN.—On the 20th January, Frederick Alexander, the dearly beloved husband of Elizabeth Dunn.

PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA.

I hereby certify that the number of candidates not being greater than the number of vacancies for the election of three members of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, I therefore declare MESSRS. CUTHBERT ROBERT BLACKETT, WILLIAM BOWEN, and SAMUEL SHIPPAM STRUTT duly elected.

J. TURNER THOMAS,
Returning Officer.
Melbourne, 25th January, 1886.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

The ANNUAL MEETING of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia will be held at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, on WEDNESDAY, the 10th MARCH, 1886, at 8 o'clock p.m.

HARRY SHILLINGLAW,
Secretary.

BUSINESS:

- To elect four Members of Council and two Auditors.
- To receive the Annual Report and Balance Sheet.
- The presentation of the Society's Gold Medal and the President's Prizes to Mr. Paul Ward Farmer.
- And to transact any other business that may be brought forward.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

(With which is Incorporated the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria.)

Members are respectfully informed that their Subscriptions for the Current Year are NOW DUE. Exchange should be added to all country cheques.

HARRY SHILLINGLAW,
Secretary.

15th January, 1886.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

In accordance with the provisions of the 53rd Section of the Articles of Association, the following are the names of the Candidates who have been nominated for the four vacant seats in the Council:—

BOWEN, WILLIAM, Melbourne.
DALTON, STEPHEN MICHAEL, Prahran.
FRANCIS, RAWSON PARKE, South Melbourne.
JONES, JOHN CLARKE, Richmond.
NELSON, WILLIAM YOUNG, Windsor.
TOMPSITT, HENRY THOMAS, Hawthorn.

HARRY SHILLINGLAW,
Secretary.

The election takes place on the 10th March, 1886.

M^R. H. T. TOMPSITT begs to inti-
mate that he is a CANDIDATE for
re-election as a Member of the Council of
the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY ELECTIONS.

To the Members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia.

Gentlemen,—I beg to inform you that I am a CANDIDATE for a seat upon the Council of the above Society, and, should I have the honour of being elected, I intend using my best endeavours to advance the interests of Pharmacy both commercially and scientifically, and will always have much pleasure in giving prompt attention to any matter relating thereto which may come or be brought under my notice.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,
S. M. DALTON
(T. W. Norris & Co.), Prahran.

N O W R E A D Y .

THE

PHARMACEUTICAL REGISTER OF VICTORIA

FOR 1886.

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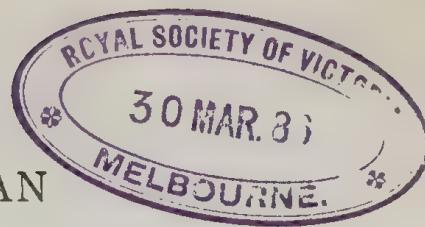
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THE AUSTRALASIAN

Journal of Pharmacy.

No. 3.]

MARCH, 1886.

[VOL. I.

Original and Selected Articles.

NOTES ON A NEW GOODENIA FROM ARNHEIM'S LAND;

BY BARON FERD. VON MUELLER, K.C.M.G., M & PH.D., F.R.S., F.C.S. &c.

Goodenia cirrifolia.—Herbaceous; stems thin, almost from the base repeatedly dichotomous, glabrous or scantily hairy or densely beset with minute gland-bearing hair; radical leaves short, almost lanceolar, those at the base of the branches and branchlets very small, cylindric-linear or often reduced to minute almost semilanceolar bract-like scales; ultimate branchlets exceedingly thin, almost capillary, many of them hook-like or tendril-like recurved; stalklets terminal, solitary, longer than the calyx, minutely bibracteolate; flowers small; calyx closely beset with very short glandular hair, its lobes semielliptic, shorter than the tube, bearing some longer scattered hair; corolla dull-yellow, outside minutely glandular-pubescent and towards the summit hairy, inside nearly glabrous; segments of the upper lip unilaterally broad-scarious; lobes of the lower lip very short, not membranously expanded; anthers blunt; style nearly glabrous; indusium except the orifice not conspicuously bearded; capsule small, globular-ovate, somewhat protruding beyond the calyx, septate only at the base; seeds 3-5 ripening, comparatively large, nearly flat, grey-brownish, surrounded by an exceedingly narrow not membranous margin.

On the Alligator-River; Moritz Holtze. The specimens obtained 6-9 inches high. Radical leaves obviously narrowed into a stalk, but soon perishing. Stems several from a somewhat cylindric probably perennial root, erect in their lower portion, amply spreading into innumerable almost divaricate branchlets. Calyces only about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long. Corolla scarcely more than $\frac{1}{3}$ inch in length; only narrow vestiges of membranous expansions on the lobes. Style shorter than the corolla. Fruit not fully $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long. Seeds ovate, about half as long as the fruit-valves.

This species introduces quite a new feature into the genus, its intricate ramification being much like that of *Leschenaultia divaricata*, *Trachymene ramosissima* and *Corynotheca dichotoma*. Systematic affinity brings our new plant nearest to *G. microptera*, from which (like from all other congeners) it differs widely in habit, besides in the remarkable reduction of the leaves, in inflorescence, almost glabrous style, nearly obliterated septum of the capsule and seeds not broadly margined. From *G. Armitiana* it is still further removed, although in that plant the fruit-septum remains likewise almost undeveloped.

Like other species of the genus *Goodenia*, this one also shares in the tonic bitterness, to which for therapeutic purposes I drew public attention already in a departmental report, presented to the Legislative Council in 1853, when also many other plants of Australia became for the first time recorded as medicinal.

All Goodenias have to us here a further special interest, as the genus was dedicated by Sir James Smith, the founder of the Linnean Society, to the Right Reverend Dr. Samuel Goodenough, Bishop of Carlisle, a vice-president of the society, in appreciation of his researches on British Carices and Algae, this distinguished prelate having the fame of his name continued in Australia especially through his grandson, the noble-minded Commodore Goodenough, who so sadly fell victim to the treachery of savages not far from our shores, when in command of the Australian Naval Station.

THE OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION IN INDIA.

THE December number of the *National Review* contains an extremely interesting paper on this subject from the pen of Mr. C. T. Buckland, some condensed extracts from which may prove acceptable to our readers.

Although the poppy will grow in almost every country and climate, it is in certain parts of India that it has been most carefully and extensively cultivated, so as to produce an amount of opium which forms an important item in the finance and revenue of the British Empire in India. The Indian opium revenue is derived from two sources—Malwa opium and Bengal opium. The first is produced in the native States of Central India, and is exported from Bombay. The British Government levies a revenue from it by a system of export passes, which are regulated in value, so as to keep the price of Malwa opium on a certain proportionate level with Bengal opium. The British Government has nothing to do with the cultivation of Malwa opium, but merely taxes it at the highest amount which it can safely impose. Bengal opium, on the other hand, is the produce of the poppy as cultivated in certain districts of Behar and the North-west Provinces of Bengal, under the direct superintendence of Government agents and other officers appointed for the purpose. A special commission was recently appointed by the Government of India to inquire into the management of this department, and it is from the report submitted by this commission—"which contains a very complete and minute display of every particular connected with opium, from the planting of the poppy-seed to the sale of the drug to the merchants who buy it for export to China and the Straits Settlements"—that Mr. Buckland extracts a deal of novel and interesting information.

At one time, it appears, Bengal opium was threatened by the rivalry of Turkey opium, which was imported into China *via* Singapore, and by the competition in the China market of the opium imported direct from the native States of Central India, where cultivation was formerly unrestricted and almost untaxed. But Turkey opium failed to suit the palate of the Chinese, and the opium of the native States was taxed by the British Government under the name of Malwa opium, so as to contribute its full share to the revenue of the Government of India. Henceforth the production of opium in Bengal continued to increase until, at the present time, the area under poppy cultivation in the Benares agency is about one hundred and fifty thousand acres, for which there are thirty thousand licenses and six hundred thousand cultivators. In the Behar agency the cultivation is estimated by the commissioners at about one hundred and fifty thousand acres, with seven hundred thousand cultivators, thus giving a grand total of one million three hundred thousand men who devote themselves to this husbandry. According to the recognised census estimate of five

individuals, including women and children, for each family, these figures, which apply solely to Bengal, give us a total exceeding six millions of people who are more or less engaged in the cultivation of the poppy.

Assuming that the number of the population engaged in Central India in poppy cultivation is about equal to the number so employed in Bengal, it is calculated that there is a grand total exceeding twelve millions of the people of India to whom the cultivation of the poppy is a matter of deep interest and advantage.

Mr. Buckland thus describes the system of cultivation: When the land has been ploughed and harrowed, the poppy-seed is sown in the end of October and the beginning of November. A soil of sandy loam is considered the most suitable. The seed is usually saved from the crop of the previous year, the capsules which have yielded most opium being also productive of the best seed. Six pounds of seed are sufficient for the third of an acre. As soon as the seed begins to germinate, which is about a week after it is sown, the field is divided by a cross series of ridges into rectangular compartments, or beds, about eight feet in length by four feet in breadth, the alternate ridges being made broader than the others to form the water-channels for the irrigation of the plant. The flowering of the plant takes place about seventy-five days after germination, and the petals, which are four in number, are gently removed on the third day after their first expansion. These petals are to be pasted together into leaves, as they are technically called, which are used to form the outer shell of the opium cake. In the course of another eight or ten days the capsules are sufficiently ripe for the extraction of the juice.

In order to extract the opium the capsule is lanced in the evening with a small instrument consisting of four blades, something similar to the blades of a cupping instrument. The incisions are made from below upwards, in perpendicular lines, and much skill is needed to make them of the right depth. Each capsule is usually lanced three or four times, at intervals of two or three days. In the operation of lancing the work is generally performed by the ryot and his family. The opium is collected in the early morning of the day following the day of lancing. The juice which has exuded from the incisions is scraped off with a small scoop, from which it is transferred to a metal or earthen vessel, and is taken to the ryot's house. Here it is treated in a simple manner, so as to get rid of mildew and any excessive moisture. In addition to the crude opium, which is produced in the simple manner that has just been described, the poppy plant yields an additional profit to the cultivator from its flower petals and from its stalks and leaves. The collection of the petals, and the preparation of the leaves, are the duty—and a favourite duty—of the females of the cultivator's family, who generally manage to appropriate the proceeds as pin money. In addition to the value of the petals of the flowers there is a small profit derivable from the stalks and leaves of the poppy plant. These are collected from the plants after they have stood long enough to wither and dry, and the leaves and thinner parts of the stalks are then broken up into "trash," as it is technically called, which is used for packing the opium cakes softly and snugly in the chests for exportation. The thick parts of the stalks are used by peasants for fuel or thatching purposes.

The crude opium having been gathered by the cultivator and stored in his own hut, he has to watch it carefully from day to day to see that it is free from mould, and to turn it over from time to time to raise its consistence by exposure to the air. "Consistence" is a technical term in the opium department, indicating

the actual solid matter as distinct from the inevitable water in the poppy juice. At Patna consistence means 75 per cent. of solid to 25 per cent. of watery matter. At Benares it means only 70 per cent. of solid to 30 per cent. of watery matter. The value of the opium which the cultivator delivers depends on its consistence, and an experienced ryot knows very well how to bring his opium up to the 75 standard, which will entitle him to the first-class or full price for it. But while the opium is in his own hut he must keep it at a distance from his tobacco and onions, which would spoil its aroma, and so depreciate its value. And he must resist the temptation of surreptitiously increasing its weight by the addition of a little flour or molasses, which will almost invariably be detected.

About the end of March, or early in April, the representative foreman of each band of cultivators in each village receives a summons bidding him and his party to attend with their opium on a fixed day before the deputy agent, who purchases and pays for it on behalf of the Government. The opium is subsequently collected at the two factories—one at Patna, the other at Ghazipore—where it is prepared and made up into cakes. The preparation of the opium before caking is comparatively simple. The principal assistant in charge of the factory is careful to see that the opium is of uniform consistence before it is given out for caking. The process of alligation, as it is called, is carried on principally in large stone troughs, in which the mass of treacly-looking, sticky material is welded and blended together, so that it may attain perfect uniformity of consistence and colour. When the opium is ready it is measured out to the cake-makers, who are hereditary experts in the art of cake-making. An opium cake is a round ball, about seven inches in diameter, and looks like a large cannon ball. It should weigh exactly 3lb. 5 $\frac{1}{3}$ oz. avoirdupois. The process is thus described in the commissioners' report:—

"In forming the cakes the workmen sit down in rows of ten or twenty, having open vessels containing pure opium placed in front of them; also vessels containing the paste and parcels of flower leaves which had previously been weighed out to them, each parcel being the quantity allowed for a single cake. Each cake-maker is provided with a brass cup about seven inches in diameter, and four deep. In the bottom and on the sides of this cup he places a layer of flower leaves, so as to form the outside cover or shell of the ball, and he smears these flower leaves with a paste prepared from refuse opium, so as to make them adhere together. He then, with his hand, takes as much pure opium as he may judge to be equal to the weight required for a cake, and places it within a shell in the brass cup. He then takes other layers of leaves, and works and pastes them altogether into a ball, securely enclosing the pure opium. Each ball is immediately weighed, and the quantity of opium in it is increased or decreased if necessary.

"The balls, or cakes as they are henceforth called, are stowed upon racks in the drying-rooms of the factory. They are turned and moved periodically, so that they may dry and mature equally, and their outer covering or shell is patched and repaired with fresh leaves if necessary. After the balls have been stored for about four months, the packing season begins. Forty cakes are packed into each chest, the chest being fitted with an internal framework, so as to prevent the cakes from touching or moving, the interstices being carefully filled up with *trash*, which prevents the balls from being rubbed against the frames. The contents of each chest are made up so that on reaching China they may be equal to one Chinese picul of 133lb. 5oz. 5 $\frac{1}{3}$ dwt. avoirdupois. Each chest is carefully packed and numbered and ticketed under the supervision of European assistants. The chests are then covered with a wrapper of stout gunny cloth, and they are ready for removal to Calcutta for sale."

THE AUSTRALASIAN
Journal of Pharmacy

With which is incorporated the Australasian Chemist and Druggist.

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No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

THE Twenty-ninth Annual Report of the Council, presented at the Annual Meeting of the members on the 10th inst., testifies to the present healthy position of the Society, and argues well for its future vitality.

The Report shows that the Society has not merely held its own during the year, but that some substantial progress has been made towards the realisation of the aspirations of those who desire to see the status of the pharmacist raised and assimilated throughout Australasia. This much is clearly indicated by the Report; and in the manner of its reception, and in the unanimity, good fellowship, and interest which characterised the entire proceedings of the meeting at which it was brought forward, it was made evident that the members were not wanting in that sympathy and enthusiasm without which no great end has ever yet been achieved.

Prominent among the accomplishments of the year the passing into law of the Amended Pharmacy Act is to be noted; and the Council's Report, whilst congratulating the members upon this valued measure, appropriately takes occasion to acknowledge this and the many other services for which Australasian pharmacy is indebted to Mr. Bosisto, M.P.

Also most satisfactory is the record that the Victorian Government has practically recognised the claims of the College of Pharmacy to an annual grant by voting the sum of £1000 for the year 1886. The Council was thus enabled to at once take a step which had long been in contemplation, but which there had previously been no means to carry out. This was the engagement of a Director and Lecturer of the College; and, upon the advice of those eminent authorities, Professors Attfield and Redwood and Mr. Plowman, Mr. Alfred H. Jackson, B.Sc., F.C.S., M.P.S., &c., was selected for the position.

The Report also specially refers to the merging of the *Australasian Chemist and Druggist* in the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy*; and the gratifying announcement is made that the new form of the organ of Australasian pharmaceutical opinion has been accorded so hearty a reception as to have exceeded the most sanguine expectations, and to give assurance of its successful establishment.

The financial position of the Society is thoroughly sound, the balance of assets over liabilities being stated at £4357 5s. 9d., of which the Benevolent Fund is to be credited with the substantial balance—£262 13s. 7d.

"Last, not least," the opening up of negotiations for the proposed Intercolonial Conference of October next is a matter by which the year 1885 is greatly distinguished.

We have so often dealt with this subject that we should hesitate to revert to it here were it not that it is so hopefully anticipated that the prospect of assimilating the pharmacy laws of the several colonies, and of procuring the establishment of a uniform system of training, teaching, and examination will be more greatly favoured by the proposed Conference than by any other apparent means; and that it seems likely that only out of such a movement can the reforms aimed at be brought about. It is not merely that enlightened pharmacists hold the fruition of these hopes to be vital to the status of their calling, and to the advancement of science, but the reforms in question are absolutely essential to the public safety. Were we addressing the ordinary reading public, we apprehend that we should have no difficulty in arousing popular feeling in favour of our *desiderata*, on merely drawing attention to the monstrous absurdity of safeguarding the public in every possible way, so far as concerns the prescriber of drugs, while exacting comparatively little assurance that the dispenser is duly qualified to carry into effect the doctor's orders. This alarming incongruity could not fail to at once strike the lay reader, and we have little fear but that Australasian pharmacists are now thoroughly in accord in a desire to arrive at an agreement upon the points referred to. To the uninitiated, Mr. Bowen's address, delivered in the capacity of retiring President of the Victoria located Society, may savour of extravagance, and, although we hope not, there may be some members of the craft who may similarly regard it. But neither the educated lay reader, nor the enlightened pharmacist, will be of the number. Mr. Bowen, if in the language of enthusiasm, merely echoes the sentiments of all those to whom the interests of pharmacy are dear when remarking upon the progress which had been made towards the advancement of the art in the southern capital, and in hopefully picturing the splendid results to the public, to the profession, and to pharmacy, which were yet to be gained. A member both of the Queensland and Victorian Societies gave most gratifying assurance to the meeting of the thorough approbation of Queensland brethren in the efforts of the southern Society in advancement of the interests of Australasian pharmacy; and nothing could be happier than Mr. Blackett's prognosticated outcome of the Conference—that the representatives of the various colonies would go back to their respective Governments and say, "Do for us what the Victorian Legislature has done for their pharmacists! Let our pharmacy laws be assimilated, so that certificates may be interchangeable; and we shall then have an Australasian piece of statesmanship which—at least so far as pharmacy is concerned—will obliterate the geographical limitations of the colonies, and secure a federation regarding the advantage of which there can be no difference of opinion, since it will give a status to a scientific body and security to the public health."

The record of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia is one in which the members have good grounds for gratification, and out of the engagement of the newly-appointed Director of the College of Pharmacy, and the October Conference, we hope that such good work will result as will crown the present year with new and higher honours.

THE *British and Colonial Druggist* quotes the following as a convenient and elegant method of dispensing essential oils when ordered in the form of pills:—The prescribed quantity of essential oil is poured into the mortar, and sufficient carbonate of magnesium added to produce a somewhat dry mass; to this is added a few drops of balsam of Peru, and the whole is well beaten until of a suitable consistence.

Victoria.

PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA.

THE monthly meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria was held at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, Melbourne, on Wednesday, the 10th March, 1886.

Present—Messrs. Blackett, Brind, Bowen, Francis, Owen, Strutt, and Tompsitt.

The president (Mr. C. R. Blackett) in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION.

Alexander Napoleon Püttmann, Bloomfield, Gippsland, in business in Victoria before the passing of the Act.

REGISTRATION OF APPRENTICE'S INDENTURES.

John Henry Tanner, Nathalia, apprenticed to Mr. J. H. B. Tanner, Nathalia.

SALE AND USE OF POISONS ACT.

The following certificates were granted:—

J. E. Clowes, Fern Hill.	William Hall, Goorambat.
L. R. Tulloh, Harrow.	H. C. Alger, Kangaroo Flat.
M. A. Lowe, Panmure.	R. Mitchell, Trenthan.
C. Simmons, Myrniong.	Samuel Sherlock, Frankston.

QUARTERLY EXAMINATIONS.

The examiners report as follows:—The Preliminary Examination—eight candidates, five passed. Modified Examination—one candidate passed. Materia Medica—five students passed. Botany—all the students who presented themselves (five) passed. Chemistry—there were seven students who presented themselves for this subject, all of whom passed.

PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE AMENDED PHARMACY ACT 1885.

The Registrar reported what had been done in reference to the cases shortly to be brought into court for breaches of the 10th and 12th Sections of the Amended Pharmacy Act.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

It was unanimously resolved that Mr. William Bowen, who is about visiting England, should be granted leave of absence by the Board.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From the secretary of the shire of Glenelg, stating that in the alleged case of typhoid fever which was attended by a chemist at Casterton there is no evidence to ensure a conviction. From the Registrar of the Melbourne University, intimating that the medical students had been notified as to the date of the commencement of the lectures on Practical Pharmacy. From Mr. W. J. Hobbs, Sydney, applying for registration in Victoria. To Mr. J. Duncan, Bairnsdale, informing him that he must pass the modified examination before he can be registered. Several police reports relating to cases of death from poison were also submitted.

Financial and general business brought the meeting to a close.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of the council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia was held at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, Melbourne, on Friday, the 12th March, 1886.

The secretary read the return made to him by the returning officer (Mr. J. T. Thomas), giving the number of votes recorded for the candidates for the four vacant seats in the Council, which were as follow:—

Bowen, William, Melbourne	...	...	...	...	141
Dalton, Stephen Michael, Prahran	...	...	...	...	92
Francis, Rawson Parke, South Melbourne	...	...	...	...	114
Jones, John Clarke, Richmond	...	...	...	...	75
Nelson, William Young, Windsor	...	...	...	...	95
Tompsitt, Henry Thomas, Hawthorn	...	...	...	...	157

And declared Messrs. Tompsitt, Bowen, Francis, and Nelson duly elected.

The members present were—Messrs. Huntsman, Brinsmead, Tompsitt, Harrison, Gamble, Kingsland, R. P. Francis, and Nelson.

In the absence of the president, the vice-president, Mr. J. Brinsmead, took the chair.

The minutes of the last council meeting, and also of a special meeting held on the 21st of January, were read and confirmed.

The vice-president then left the chair, which, on the motion of Mr. Harrison, was taken by Mr. Huntsman.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

On the motion of Mr. Brinsmead, seconded by Mr. Tompsitt, Mr. William Bowen was unanimously re-elected president for the ensuing year.

ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT.

Mr. Huntsman proposed, and Mr. Kingsland seconded, the re-election of Mr. Brinsmead as vice-president, which was carried unanimously.

The vice-president then resumed the chair.

ELECTION OF TREASURER.

On the resolution of Mr. H. T. Tompsitt, seconded by Mr. C. Harrison, Mr. Henry Gamble was for the eighth time unanimously re-elected treasurer.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

The following new members, having complied with the necessary form of application, were balloted for and duly elected:—

Francis Longmore, Melbourne.

John Glendinning B. Duncan, Brighton.

William Joyee Hobbs, Sydney.

APPOINTMENT OF LECTURER AND DIRECTOR OF THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

On the motion of Mr. Huntsman, seconded by Mr. R. P. Francis, it was unanimously resolved that Mr. C. R. Blackett and Mr. D. MacAlpine be appointed lecturers for the first term of the session of 1886, until the arrival from England of Mr. Jackson, the newly-appointed director.

THE INTERCOLONIAL PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

The following gentlemen were appointed a committee to carry out the necessary details for the Conference:—Messrs. Huntsman, Brinsmead, Harrison,

and Tompsitt from the Pharmaceutical Society, in conjunction with Messrs. Blackett, Brind, and H. Francis, members of the Pharmacy Board.

The committee will, on an early date, prepare and forward to the other colonies for approval a general outline of the business to be submitted to the conference, and will invite their co-operation and assistance.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters were received and dealt with from Messrs. Clewer, Taylor, Scott, MacAlpine, Burroughs, Forrest, and Ash. The secretary also submitted the correspondence sent to Messrs. S. Plowman, A. H. Jackson, F. Forrest, W. J. Main, J. V. Morgan, Professor Dunstan, F. B. Wilkinson, etc. Financial and general business brought the meeting to a close.

THE TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

THE Annual Meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia was held on the evening of Wednesday, 10th inst., at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, Melbourne.

Mr. Wm. Bowen, J.P., the President, occupied the chair, and there were also present—Messrs. Blackett, J.P., Huntsman, Gamble, Hooper, Tompsitt, Owen, Francis, Atkin, Mummery, Potts, Strutt, J. T. Thomas, Kingsland, Baker, Brinsmead, Dalton, R. D. Bowen, Henshall, Hodgkiss, Farmer, Dalton, De Beare, Graham Mitchell, and Corinaldi.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. H. Shillinglaw) read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were duly confirmed. The following was announced as the result of the ballot for the election of four members of the Couucil, *vice* Messrs Bowen, Tompsitt, Jones and Lacey, the retiring members :—

	Votes.
Mr. H. T. Tompsitt	157
Mr. Wm. Bowen	141
Mr. R. P. Francis	114
Mr. Wm. Y. Nelson	95
Mr. S. M. Dalton	92
Mr. J. Clark Jones	75

The first four gentlemen were therefore declared duly elected.

The retiring Auditors, Messrs. C. A. Atkin and W. Hodgkiss, were re-elected without opposition.

Mr. Bowen returned thanks for his re-election; Mr. Tompsitt responded for himself and the other elected members of the Council; and Mr. Atkin, for the Auditors, in acknowledging the compliment implied by the absence of any opposition to their re-election, referred to the admirable manner in which the accounts had been kept by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. H. Gamble.

The Annual Report and Balance-sheet were then presented and adopted on the motion of Mr. S. S. Strutt, seconded by Mr. H. W. Potts. The latter gentleman took occasion to refer in specially congratulatory terms to the very satisfactory condition of the Society. Speaking as a member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland, as well as that of Australasia, he stated that the progress of pharmacy in Victoria was regarded with sympathetic enthusiasm by Queensland brethren, and that the names of Messrs. Bosisto, Blackett, Bowen, and of the

other gentlemen who had done so much to raise the status of pharmacists in the southern colony, were held; in reverence among members of the art located in the northern parts of the continent.

Mr. Blackett then read a paper, which he modestly styled a note, on "Ipecacuanha Wine." Mr. Blackett reviewed the new process for the preparation of ipecacuanha wine prescribed by the *British Pharmacopœia*, observing that sherry wine (ordered in the *B. Ph.*) contains from 17 to 20 per cent. of rect. spirit, and also contains bitartrate of potash and tannin. As free acid in wines is an advantage in the preparation of ipecacuanha wine, said Mr. Blackett, since the ipecacuanate of emetina is precipitated in long-kept wine if no free acid is present, it is suggested that the best, dry, high-priced sherries are not so suitable for this preparation as an acid and common wine. Mr. Blackett questioned whether a weak tincture would not be better than the wine as prepared according to the *B. Ph.*, since, if the wine be made in the old way, and with strong sherry containing much tannin, the deposit would continue so long as any alkaloid remained, and it will be found that old, long-made wine will give very poor indications of the presence of emetina through the usual tests. Mr. Blackett doubted whether it was necessary to evaporate the powdered root to a dry extract, as ordered, considering that if the evaporation be continued until no odour of acetic acid is perceptible it would be quite sufficient. The paper concluded with a favourable comment upon the new process, mention being made of the fact that the wine when first thus prepared does not possess the characteristic odour of that which is made according to the old method by simple maceration, but that the odour gradually develops, although not to the extent to which we have been accustomed. Mr. Blackett referred his hearers to Bentley and Trimens on Medicinal Plants, vol. ii., p. 145, for further information upon the ipecacuanha.

An interesting discussion ensued, and Mr. Bowen expressed the feeling of the meeting when thanking Mr. Blackett for the paper in question, and for the many others which he had contributed upon former occasions; and hoped that other members would follow Mr. Blackett's example.

Mr. Bowen, as the retiring President, then delivered his address, as follows:—"It is an interesting occupation, when ascending a mountain, to look around you and to observe from different standpoints the very varying scenery. Our presence here may be compared to such a position. We are assembled here this evening, as members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, to review the progress we have made during the past year. Some of those present will remember the origin of our establishment. The objects which we first had in view were of a modest character, and, indeed, scarcely contemplated more than the establishment of a Registration Society, the reading of occasional papers, and the discussion of matters affecting the welfare of our body. It is true that our journey has been a toilsome one—sometimes even discouraging—but, under the able leadership of Mr. Blackett and Mr. Bosisto, we steadily pursued our way, until at length we reached a resting-place in the establishment of the College of Pharmacy. From this point of vantage the view became more extensive, and of a more scientific character. And I feel assured that the members of this institution will be excused a feeling of pride in the results of their labours. Since the establishment of this college 312 students have passed the preliminary examinations, 138 have passed the *Materia Medica*, and in the other examinations the number of successful students has also been satisfactory, the numbers being:—Botany, 141; Chemistry, 148. In the major examinations 48 students have passed in Practical Pharmacy, and 108 have been successful in the modified examinations. Do not imagine, gentlemen, that we have yet attained the height of our ambition. Far from it. We have, as yet, only laid the foundation, but I sincerely trust that that foundation

has been laid in solid material. I ask you, one and all, to in no wise relax your efforts, for, though we have gained a good foothold at a respectable altitude upon the mountain upon whose side we stand, there is still a vast ascent to climb. But 'who can tell how hard it is to climb the hill when Fame's proud triumph shines afar!' I ask every student who has successfully passed the examinations prescribed not only to assist those who have laid this goodly foundation, but, by their individual action, to assist in making the College an educational institution of such a character as to gain for it an official position, not simply recognised within the future empire of Australasia, but having authority in the United Kingdom, in Europe, and in the United States of America. The report which has just been read has informed you of the various occurrences of the past year, and I sincerely regret that our efforts to bring about a Conference of the various Pharmaceutical Societies of Australasia and New Zealand, for the purpose of raising the standard of education and of assimilating the same with that of Great Britain, with the object of securing an interchange of certificates, have not yet been successful. Renewed efforts, however, have been made, and I hope that the Conference of October next may bring about satisfactory results. The Report lays stress upon the encouraging increase in the number of members which has taken place during the year; but I shall not rest content until every registered chemist is brought to realise the advantage of enrolling himself, and thus, by his subscription and influence, assisting in extending the prosperity and power of the Society. I would urge upon the members, and especially the younger ones, the desirability of contributing papers upon matters of interest to pharmacists, either merely to our meetings or for publication in the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy*. Those whose modesty has hitherto restrained them from attempting this desirable work will be astonished at the good results which must accrue from the report of practical observations and the attendant discussions; while, should there be any who may not be satisfied with their maiden efforts in this direction, I recommend that old-time precept, 'Try, try again.' Reference has been made to the steps taken by the Council in the selection of a lecturer to the College of Pharmacy. This appointment is a matter of most serious import, and I know of nothing of any previous action of the Council which has so emphatically assured me of the future prosperity of the College as the manner in which this appointment has been made. The Council determined to set aside all personal friendships, and to secure, in the most unreserved manner, the best man available for the position. And I sincerely congratulate the Society on the appointment of Mr. Jackson, a gentleman in every way qualified for the important duties which he will be called upon to perform. The passing of the Amended Pharmacy Act is likewise a matter for gratification, as it will materially improve our position as pharmaceutical chemists, notwithstanding the illogical criticism of one of the candidates for the Council. The determination to carry on an independent journal, the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy*, is also a step in an onward direction; and I trust that the members will endeavour to render the publication all the support in their power, by contributing information, and instituting discussions by means of which our common interests may be promoted. I cannot close this address without referring to the able services rendered to the Society by our indefatigable Secretary, Mr. H. Shillinglaw, and cannot ignore the moral claim he has upon the Society for the valuable assistance he has gratuitously rendered us during so many years."

A unanimous vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Bowen for his address, on the motion of Mr. Atkin, seconded by Mr. Blackett.

The gold medal and the President's prize for the dux of 1885 were then presented to Mr. Paul Ward Farmer, and that gentleman duly responded.

Mr. Tompsitt moved, and Mr. Atkin seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr. Blackett for the paper which he had contributed to the meeting, and further complimentary allusions were made as to the obligations of the Society for the many like good offices which Mr. Blackett had rendered to the Society.

Mr. Blackett responded, with the hope that other pharmacists would keep him company in such work; and, alluding to the forthcoming Conference, expressed his desire that, through its means, so far as pharmacy was concerned, the geographical limitations of the several colonies would be eliminated, and that the representatives of the various colonies would go to their respective Governments saying, "Do for us what the Victorian Legislature has done for its pharmacists!"

The meeting then closed, and an adjournment was made to the Maison Dorée, where the quarterly supper was held.

THE QUARTERLY EXAMINATIONS OF THE PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA.

THE following candidates passed at the quarterly examinations of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria:—

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION, 1ST MARCH.

- C. M. Harridge, East Melbourne.
- W. R. Anderson, Windsor.
- F. G. Corinaldi, Prahran.
- Sidney Ewing, Fitzroy.
- J. J. Bowen, Sandhurst.

Eight candidates presented themselves for this examination.

CHEMISTRY AND PRACTICAL CHEMISTRY, 2ND AND 3RD MARCH.

- F. H. Knight, West Melbourne.
- Alfred Gamson, Ararat.
- W. Thursfield, Ballarat.
- J. J. Hill, Brunswick.
- James Breton, Prahran.
- F. Cathcart, Ballarat.
- Edward L. Fisher, Melbourne.

All the candidates who presented themselves for this examination passed.

MATERIA MEDICA AND BOTANY, 2ND AND 3RD MARCH.

- Claud N. Hall, Fitzroy.
- John Gaffney, Ballarat.
- C. A. Graves, Richmond.
- Henry De Baere, Beaufort.
- Hector E. Hall, Fitzroy

All the candidates who presented themselves for this examination passed.

MODIFIED EXAMINATION, 2ND MARCH.

- Arthur M. Darken, Melbourne.

THE PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

FOR the information of students we publish the following examination paper used at the examination held on the 1st March:—

Time allowed, three hours.

N.B.—It is not necessary for candidates to answer every question in the paper.

A fair amount in each subject well done will be sufficient.

LATIN.

Translation and Grammar; Caesar, de Bello Gallico, Book I.

- (1.) Translate closely and literally—

(a) Caesar quod memoria tenebat L. Cassium consulem occisum exercitumque ejus ab Helvetiis *pulsum* et sub jugum missum, concedendum non putabat, neque homines inimico animo data facultate per provinciam itineris *faciundi* temperaturos ab injuria et maleficio existimabat.

(b) Caesar suas copias in proximum collem subducit, aciem instruit. Labienus, ut erat ei praeceptum a Caesare ne proelium committeret, nisi ipsius copiae prope hostium castra *visae essent*, ut undique uno tempore in hostes impetus *fieret*, monte occupato, nostros exspectabat proelioque abstinebat.

- (2.) Parse the italicised words in the above.

- (3.) Answer the following questions on the above] passages:—

(a) What were the exact position and duties of the Roman “Consul?”

(b) Who were the Helvetii, and what part of Europe did they inhabit?

(c) “Inimico animo.” What is the grammatical force of this phrase?

(d) To whom does the pronoun “ipsius” refer?

(e) “Abstinebat”—why in the past imperfect tense? What would have been the shade of meaning expressed by “abstinuit?”

- (4) Decline the substantive iter, pronoun ipse, participle dans.

- (5) Give the principal parts and meanings of the verbs—habeo, converto, exquo, satistfacio.

- (6) Write out in full—

(a) Past imperfect indic. of pollicor.

(b) Past perfect subj. passive of mitto.

(c) Future subj. act. of doceo.

- (7) Translate into Latin—

(a) The tower is ten feet higher than the wall.

(b) We fear that the enemy are at hand.

(c) He told me that his brother was going to Rome.

ENGLISH.

Grammar and Composition.

- (1) Give the [full analysis of the sentence—

“As I am not versed in the modern Coptic, our conferences go no further than a bow or a grimace.”

- (2) Explain this sentence, on the benefits of trade, from Addison—

“The fruits of Portugal are corrected by the products of Barbadoes; the infusion of a China plant sweetened with the pith of an Indian cane.”

- (3) Parse every word in the line—

“Full on this casement shone the wintry moon.”

- (4) Write a short piece of composition on—

“The value in life of a high character,” or on the Rainbow.

ARITHMETIC.

First four rules, simple and compound; vulgar and decimal fractions, and simple and compound proportion. British and Metrical systems of Weights and Measures.

(1) The following sums are given to a charity:—£17 3s. 2d., £12 19s. 5½d., £21 17s. 11d., and £24 12s. 10d., and the whole amount is then divided among 47 poor persons equally. Find what each receives.

(2) Reduce to lowest terms—

$$\frac{\frac{1}{2}}{\frac{1}{3}} + \frac{\frac{1}{3}}{\frac{1}{4}} - \frac{\frac{1}{4}}{\frac{1}{5}} \div 1\frac{2}{3}$$

(3) Find value of 3 of £1 + 25 of £5 10s. — 125 of £2 3s. 4d.

(4) If 4 men earn £14 in 6½ days, what will 17 men earn in 4 weeks of 5½ days each?

(5) Find what a rate of 1s. 2d. in the £1 would come to on a property worth £5800.

(6) Taking the litre to be = 1·76 pints, find the number of centilitres in 40 gallons.

CUTCH AND GAMBIER.

IN reference to Baron Von Müller's article in the February number of this journal, the following is the official return of the quantity imported into the United Kingdom in 1884, being extract from the annual statement for that year:—

				Tons.	Value.
From France	...	...	...	...	£5,496
,, India—					
Bombay and Scinde	...	...	...	1,106	28,245
Bengal and Burmah	...	...	...	8,836	232,161
,, Straits Settlements	...	...	...	21,421	538,902
,, China and Hong Kong	...	...	...	263	6,800
,, United States of America	...	...	...	198	5,792
,, Other countries	...	...	...	137	3,622
Total	...	...	...	32,2198	£21,018

A. W. MUSGROVE, Secretary Trade and Customs.

THE REDWOOD TESTIMONIAL FUND.

WITH a view of forwarding contributions to this fund, a subscription list has been opened, which is limited to 10s. 6d. from each subscriber.

The following amounts have been received. The list will be closed on the 30th April next:—

C. R. Blackett.	E. G. Hooper.	James Lacey.
W. Bowen.	Henry Brind.	James Brinsmead.
H. Francis.	S. S. Strutt.	George Kingsland.
F. S. Grimwade.	Alfred J. Owen.	H. Gamble.
W. Johnson.	Chas. Ager Atkin.	C. Harrison.
J. Turner Thomas.	H. A. Corinaldi.	William Y. Nelson.
G. Swift.	S. M. Dalton.	R. P. Francis.
H. T. Tompsitt.	H. W. Potts.	T. Huntsman.
John R. Duerdin.		

Subscriptions may be forwarded to Mr. H. Shillinglaw at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, Melbourne, and will be acknowledged in this journal.

A NEW SUBURBAN PHARMACY.

MR. LEREW has opened a new pharmacy in the Glenferrie-road, Middle Hawthorn, between the Glenferrie railway station and the Ladies' Wesleyan College. He has introduced a rather novel feature in having his shelving ebonised and polished, with four plate-glass pilasters for divisions, the centre row of shelves being narrower and semicircled. The rows of bottles, with their newly written gold labels, look exceedingly well against a light-green painted wall. This, again, is relieved by a long nest of drawers in polished Huon pine, with glass handles, carried the whole length of the shelving in a cedar polished frame, with sliding lockers underneath containing bottles of every size required for dispensing purposes. The opposite side wall is occupied by a large cedar polished case for patent and proprietary medicines. The retail counter is nicely arranged, with plate-glass case on it and homœopathic case of Martin and Pleasance's, with space beyond it for scales and the serving of customers. The dispensing is conducted at a cross counter, on which is placed a perfumery case and large mirror. The back of these is shelved, and well filled with medicines required in general dispensing. Also is here to be seen a conspicuous case containing alkaloids and poisons, leaving sufficient and commodious space for dispensing without interruption. The shop was fitted by Mr. C. Beecham, of Post Office-place, whose good taste and excellent workmanship is in keeping with the times and with the requirements of the district, there being a large neighbourhood and a well-to-do population, which is greatly increasing in that portion between Kew and Hawthorn. Mr. Lerew may be congratulated on possessing one of the prettiest little suburban pharmacies in the colony, and we wish him every success in his new venture.

MESSRS. FELTON, GRIMWADE & CO.'S ANNUAL PICNIC.

THE annual excursion given by Messrs. Felton, Grimwade and Co. to their employés took place on the 13th inst., Mordialloc being the place chosen. The clerk of the weather, in spite of threats which were considered ominous, seemed to smile on the day's proceedings, and the fullest advantage was taken of his favours, which contributed in no small degree towards the enjoyment of all present.

The swimming matches, which were the first items on the programme, attracted very few competitors. It was suggested that some who would otherwise have joined in this contest were deterred by the fear of spoiling their appetite for dinner, but this idea was not generally credited.

After these were got through the company assembled at Bloxsidge's Hotel, where a most excellent dinner was provided. Mr. Jackson, the manager of the factory, in proposing the health of the firm, referred in feeling terms to the pleasure he felt, and which he was sure was shared by all, in seeing Mr. Grimwade once more at his accustomed post, after his long absence^s and serious illness. In replying, Mr. Grimwade expressed his thanks for the hearty manner in which Mr. Jackson's sentiments had been received and confirmed, adding that in travelling over the world he had come to the conclusion that there are *n* *a* *ny* worse places to live in than Victoria, and that for his part he was well pleased to be back again, especially with the good health which, with God's mercy, had now been restored to him. He then spoke with regret of Mr. Bage's continued illness, but hoped that his health was gradually improving in New Zealand, and that a

few months' holiday would complete his restoration to health. The warmth with which Mr. Bage's name was received testified to the esteem in which he is held by all who were present. The mention of Mr. Felton also produced long applause, which was repeated when Mr. Grimwade stated that, while regretting his unavoidable absence from the gathering, he had sent a handsome sum of money to be distributed in the form of prizes for the athletic contests. Mr. Cowley's health was then proposed and drunk with enthusiasm, and, after a short speech from Mr. Mount, in which he dwelt with emphasis on the importance of athletic exercises and temperance, the company adjourned to the open, where the following programme of sports was gone through:—

Swimming Race (Boys).—Hill, 1; Brohan, 2.

Swimming Race (Open).—H. Grimwade, 1; F. Geary, 2; Hill, 3.

Handicap Flat Race, 100 yards.—C. Ladd, 1; O. Chapman, 2.

Quoit Match.—Moonie.

Long Jumping (for Boys).—F. Tubbs, 1; Brohan, 2.

Long Jumping (Open).—O. Chapman, 1; J. Hardy, 2.

High Jumping (for Boys).—H. Grimwade, 1; R. Martin, 2; H. Brook, 3.

High Jumping (Open).—A. Begg, 1; G. Cook, 2.

Handicap Flat Race (Boys), 100 yards.—Brien, 1; H. Grimwade, 2; F. Tubbs, 3.

Handicap Flat Race (Open), 300 yards.—H. Harper, 1; C. Ladd, 2.

Recitation for Boys under 19 years.—Anderson, 1; W. Keenan, 2.

HERBARIUM PRIZE.

A PRIZE of books of the value of two pounds is offered by Mr. C. R. Blackett, president of the Pharmacy Board, for the best herbarium collected in Victoria between the first day of January and the first day of December. In the event of none of the collections possessing such an amount of merit as to warrant the council in awarding the prize, it will not be given.

The collections must consist of phanerogamous plants and ferns, arranged according to the natural system of De Candolle or any other natural method in use, and be accompanied by lists arranged according to the same method, with the species numbered.

The collector must follow the works of Mr. Bentham and Baron Von Müller. The name of each plant, its habitat and date of collection, must be stated on the paper on which it is preserved. Each collection must be accompanied by a declaration signed by the collector to the following effect:—"The plants which are forwarded with this declaration were collected by myself between the first day of January and the first day of December, 18 , and were named and arranged without assistance but that derived from books."

In estimating the merits of the collections not only will the number of specimens be taken into account, but also their rarity or otherwise, and the manner of preservation, and, should a specimen be wrongly named, it will be erased from the list.

The collections must be forwarded to the secretary on or before the thirty-first day of December, endorsed "Herbarium for Competition." After the prize is awarded the collections are retained one month under the care of the secretary for the inspection of persons connected with the society, and then returned to the collectors if required.

Competitors must be registered apprentices or students of the society, and under twenty-one years of age.

The Month.

WE are glad to state that, at last advice from Dunedin, Mr. Bage (of Messrs. Felton, Grimwade & Co.) was much improved in health.

MESSRS. Blackett and M'Farlane have been interesting themselves in a movement for early closing, and we are informed that the whole of the pharmacists of Fitzroy and Collingwood have agreed to the proposal to close at 9.30.

THE annual meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society was not largely attended, but passed off in a satisfactory manner, the address of the president and all the business being finished in ample time for the supper at the *Maison Dorée*.

THE "Year Book of Pharmacy for 1885" is expected shortly to arrive, and will be distributed as quickly as possible. Members who have not yet paid their subscriptions are invited to forward the same to Mr. Shillinglaw, College of Pharmacy.

THE quarterly supper of the members of the Pharmaceutical Society was held at the *Maison Dorée* on the evening of the 10th inst. There was an excellent attendance. The only toast was the "Health of Mr. William Bowen," which was proposed by Mr. C. A. Atkin, and drank in a most hearty manner.

THE recent quarterly examinations under the Pharmacy Act have resulted very satisfactorily to the students who presented themselves for examination, not a single candidate having been rejected in the *materia medica*, botany, and chemistry sections. Five out of eight in the preliminary examination passed.

THE gold medal of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia was presented, at the annual meeting, by the president, to Mr. Paul Ward Farmer, the dux student of the year 1885. The prizes given by the president (3 vols. of Buckle's History of Civilisation, handsomely bound in calf) follow the medal, and have been awarded to Mr. Farmer.

IT will be very gratifying to Mr. Bosisto to learn that he has, notwithstanding his absence from the colony, been again returned to Parliament at the head of the poll. On this occasion Mr. Bosisto polled 1087 votes more than he did at the general election in February, 1883, when he was also at the head of the poll. Mr. Bosisto has ever been one of the most constant and able contributors to Australasian pharmaceutical publications, and both our previous numbers contain articles from his pen.

MR. WILLIAM BOWEN, the President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia and a member of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, who is about paying a visit to Europe, was entertained at lunch by the members of the Board on the 10th inst. In proposing the health of their guest, Mr. C. R. Blackett dwelt on the earnest interest Mr. Bowen had always taken in the advancement of Australasian pharmacy, and hoped that, after his well-earned holiday, they would have the pleasure of welcoming him back again.

PROFESSORS REDWOOD and Attfield, and Mr. Sydney Plowman, F.R.C.S., the committee appointed in London to select a gentleman to undertake the duties of director and lecturer at the College of Pharmacy, Melbourne, have recommended Mr. Alfred H. Jackson, B.Sc., F.C.S., M.P.S., for the position. The bulk of Mr. Jackson's training has been in the laboratories of Professor Schorlemmer and Professor Sir H. E. Roscoe, and he is now the head of the Sandy Lane Chemical Works, Manchester. Mr. Jackson has had practical experience in teaching, and has also been a large contributor to the English scientific

journals. The nomination has been ratified by cablegram, and Mr. Jackson will leave England for Melbourne in April next. The first term of the 1886 session of the College of Pharmacy will be under the direction of Mr. C. R. Blackett (Chemistry and *Materia Medica*) and Mr. D. McAlpine, who will undertake Lectures on Botany until the arrival of Mr. Jackson.

THOMSEN has called attention to the fact that the conclusion reached by Raoult in his researches on the freezing point of saline solutions, that water possesses, in the condition of liquid, twice the molecular weight which it has in the condition of vapour, coincides with the conclusion to which he himself had come from his investigations on the constitution of hydrated salts. In his thermo-chemical researches, Thomsen says:—A glance at the table of heat of hydration of hydrated salt shows that the water molecules enter often in pairs with the same heat change; a fact explicable either by supposing that the molecules of water are symmetrically placed in the molecule of the salt, or, and perhaps more probably, that the molecular weight of liquid water is twice that of water vapour. The similarity of these conclusions, from widely different fields of investigation, is noteworthy.—*Ber. Berl. Chem. Ges.*, xviii., 1088, April, 1885; G.F.B., *Amer. Jour.*

New South Wales.

THE appeal case, Abraham v. M'Quade, in which the well-known chemist, Mr. J. S. Abraham, of George-street, sought to reverse the former decision of the court, came on on Tuesday, the 23rd February. The defendant, who owns the premises occupied by Mr. Abraham, had offered to sell the property for a sum of £10,000 to him, the offer being accepted; however, after thinking over the matter, Mr. M'Quade decided not to sell at that price, deeming it insufficient. Mr. Abraham placed the matter in the hands of his lawyer, but the case went against him, and in the appeal the previous judgment of the court has been upheld.

Taking example from their English brethren, the graduates and members of the Scottish Universities have decided to hold a first annual dinner on the 15th inst. Sir John Hay will occupy the chair, and a number of prominent Scottish 'Varsity men have signified their intention to be present.

Dr. Thomas Dixson, lecturer on *materia medica* at the Sydney University, has returned to Sydney after an absence of two years. Dr. Dixson received two years' leave of absence from the senate, in order that he might visit the principal schools in Great Britain and on the Continent, and thus be able to introduce into the medical school of our University the more recent improvements and discoveries in his special branch.

Dr. Roth, whose lectures on the subjects of hygiene and the general laws of health, in the course of scientific lectures lately delivered at the Technical College, proved so attractive, has been appointed by the Government to periodically lecture at Hurlstone College to the lady students who are qualifying themselves there for positions as teachers under the National Department of Education. Hygiene will in future be one of the subjects taught in our public schools.

On Thursday, 24th February, the monthly meeting of the Linnean Society of N.S.W. was held at the society's hall. There was a large attendance; Professor Stephens in the chair. Amongst those present were the Hon. Wm. Macleay, Mr. Wilkinson (Government geologist), Mr. Ramsay (curator of the museum), Mr.

W. A. Haswell, M.A., B.Sc., Mr. J. Brazier, C.M.Z.S., Mr. W. Hurst, and the Hon. H. E. Cohen. The committee reported that no essay on the Bacillus of Typhoid worthy of the prize offered by the Hon. Wm. Macleay had been sent in, and recommended that the money should be returned to the donor, but that gentleman very generously desired that it should be placed to the credit of the society. A list of donations, consisting chiefly of scientific journals, was read. Several interesting papers were also read, and a number of exhibits shown.

The diploma of corresponding member of the *Deutsche Meteorologische Gesellschaft* has been conferred on Mr. H. C. Russell (Government astronomer), it is believed on account of his contributions to meteorological science. The diploma is very handsome, and is signed by Dr. Neumeyer, as president of the society, who spent some years in Victoria studying the meteorology of that colony.

At the Metropolitan Court of Quarter Sessions an unfortunate woman, Catherine Jane Hill, who had attempted to commit suicide by taking chlorodyne, was discharged upon entering into recognisances to appear when called upon.

The wife of Professor Anderson Stuart was found dead in her bed at an early hour on Sunday, the 28th February. The circumstance was reported to the coroner, and at the inquest it was elicited that deceased had been in the habit of taking morphia and other narcotics with a view of allaying pain and obtaining sleep. The finding of the jury was—"That deceased died from the effects of an overdose of morphia, but whether it was taken by herself, or administered to her, the evidence adduced did not enable them to say."

The disastrous accident which took place on board the *Manapouri*, by which the chief officer, the third officer, and a seaman lost their lives, from the effects of the fumes of some nitric acid, which had leaked and had set some cases on fire, whilst they were endeavouring to extinguish it, is another instance of the carelessness displayed by the ignorant in handling dangerous chemicals. The jury, in returning a verdict of accidental death, added a rider blaming Messrs. Elliott Bros., of Sydney, the shippers of the acid which caused the mischief; but this Messrs. Elliott Bros. in a letter to the *Telegraph*, 2nd March, indignantly repudiate, as the acid, when it left Sydney, was placed on the deck of the steamer, and if it had, at any time during the voyage, been placed in the hold, the blame did not rest with them.

A whole family of seven, named Crane, living at Tent Hill, Emmaville, have been taken ill with symptoms of poisoning. Two of the children have died, and the parents are in a critical state. It is believed that a calico bag, which had contained strychnine, was accidentally used for cooking purposes. Another report of the same sad affair attributes the poisoning to the fact of the family, during the recent dry weather, having been using water from a stagnant waterhole.

O'Sullivan, the man who murdered his wife's child with chloroform, has been adjudged as of unsound mind and unfit to stand the charge. When being conveyed to gaol after having been committed for murder, the unfortunate man attempted to commit suicide by throwing himself under a tram motor. He, however, only received a severe shaking.

The following gentlemen were elected as members of the board of directors of the Sydney Hospital at the election, which took place at the Town Hall on 26th February, viz.—Messrs. J. Hardie, C. J. Roberts, J. Young (mayor), T. Playfair, and A. C. Shadler.

Mr. Richard Threlfall, B.A., of Caius College, Cambridge, has been appointed Professor of Physics to the Sydney University. He leaves London by the R.M.S. *Valella* on the 15th April next.

Dr. J. J. Power, a very old resident of the colony of Queensland and a native of Sydney, died at Gympie of typhoid fever on Friday, 5th March. Dr. Power, who for some time was practising in Brisbane, was about to visit England.

Mr. Watkin, the representative of Messrs. Evans, Lescher and Webb, returned to Sydney on the 15th of last month after a lengthened absence in the old country. He proceeded to Melbourne on the 12th inst.

Mr. A. J. Joseph, a gentleman well known to the trade in England, formerly of Hastings and London, has opened in Bond-street as sole representative in the colonies for Messrs. Toogood and Son, druggists' sundrymen, glass bottle manufacturers, and the Crown Perfumery.

A deputation representing the Board of the Technical College waited upon the Minister of Public Instruction on Friday, the 5th instant, to impress upon the Government the necessity of allowing the board to issue certificates under the Poisons Act of New South Wales. This privilege, according to the Act, is at present only enjoyed by the Pharmaceutical Society, but the deputation urged, as their reasons for wishing also to have power to grant certificates, that although they had teachers and a laboratory properly fitted up, which enabled students to qualify themselves and become efficient in the science of chemistry, &c., the Pharmaceutical Council or Board, having had a disagreement with the Board of the Technical College, would not recognise that body, although they recommended students to avail themselves of the lectures delivered by their instructors, and yet, not having any properly appointed instructors of their own, they compel those wishing to be registered under the Poisons Act to pass severe examinations, even though they had passed those held by the Board of the Technical College. As the fees for these examinations came to about £7 10s., they claimed that it was taxing young chemists' assistants too much. The Minister, in answer to the deputation, stated that the matter resolved itself simply into one of law. The Act stated that the Pharmaceutical Society was alone to have power to grant certificates, but he promised to consult the Crown Law Officer, and see what could be done.

The usual monthly meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society took place on the 9th inst., at the office, 142 Phillip-street, the following members being present:—Messrs. Larmer (in the chair), Watt, Bozon, Mayne, Pratt, M'Carthy, and Carter. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The secretary informed the meeting that the president had appointed Mr. Alfred Carter, of Woolahra, to fill the vacancy in the council for the remainder of the current year. Messrs. F. C. Rose and Gilbert Vaughan were elected members of the society. Several important communications were read and discussed, accounts were passed, and the meeting adjourned.

The well-known firm of Messrs. E. Prosser and Co. has been sold to a company, and will from 1st April be carried on under the title of The Australian Drug Company, Limited. Mr. Evan Prosser still retains an interest in the business, and, I believe, proceeds shortly to London, not only to recruit his health, but also to act as buyer for the company. Messrs. Frank Kemp and Jas. B. Nicholson are the managing directors, whilst the services of Mr. T. Ancell, for many years manager with the New Zealand Drug Company, have been secured.

Mr. Jas. Mayne, examiner in chemistry and botany to the Pharmacy Board and Pharmaceutical Society, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Microscopical Society, London.

Mr. Pratt has sold his business to Mr. Townley, late of Nyngan, and I believe intends opening up at Burwood.

Mr. J. Hamilton, of Regent-street, Chippendale, has been winning laurels in Victoria at the Grand Pigeon Match, New South Wales v. Victoria, sharing first and second honours with Mr. W. Clarke. He also came second in the Silver Cup.

Mr. Withers, of Burwood, who has been very ill with typhoid, is now quite convalescent.

Mr. C. E. Towl has purchased the business of Mr. D. C. Hollander, Crown-street, Surry Hills.

Mr. Parke, manager for Mr. J. T. Pooch, Young, paid a flying visit to the city last week.

There is to be another new pharmacy in George-street. A Mr. Norden intends opening at the corner of George and Margaret streets, and is at present advertising for a first-class man as manager.

Mr. Macdonald, late at Messrs. Elliott Bros., is managing for Messrs. Jones and Co. in their Crown-street business.

A cricket match between teams representing Messrs. Elliott Bros. and Messrs. E. Prosser and Co. took place on Mr. Frank Smith's ground, at Botany, on Saturday, the 6th instant. As the weather was anything but propitious towards the close of the afternoon the match resulted in a draw. The cricketers adjourned to the hotel of Frank's, and revelled in the good things in a manner which spoke well for their enjoyment of the day's outing. Speeches and songs enlivened the company afterwards. Two songs, one sung by Mr. Gray, and the other by Mr. Fred. Fowler (of Messrs. Elliott Bros.), were extremely well given. Great credit is due to Mr. Gray, the instigator of the outing, for the successful manner in which all the arrangements were carried out.

Dr. Theodore H. Barker, son of the Rev. H. Barker, late of Sutton Forest, has returned to Sydney. Dr. Barker was educated at the Sydney Grammar School, attaining there the position of dux in Classics and English. In May, 1879, he commenced his medical studies at the Edinburgh University, and was so successful that his name appeared every year of his sojourn there on the honour list. In August, 1883, he graduated as M.B.C.M., with honours. He then became resident medical officer of one of the London hospitals, making a special study of the diseases of the eye, ear, and skin. Immediately after passing his second examination Dr. Barker was appointed demonstrator in physiology at the University, and assistant demonstrator in anatomy at the Royal School of Medicine, Edinburgh. He also passed several months in Vienna, gaining additional experience in his specialities.

A case of suicide by drinking carbolic acid occurred on the 10th inst., at Summerhill. A young girl named Mary Dunbar, only fourteen years of age, had received notice from her mistress, but she stated her determination not to leave, whilst her mistress insisted upon her dismissal. The girl then deliberately swallowed about half a bottle of Calvert's No. 5 Acid. Large quantities of olive oil were given to her. Drs. Wori and Fox were called in, but their services were of no avail, as the girl died in less than a quarter of an hour.

During the past year 228 patients were treated at the Glebe Hospital for Sick Children, of whom only 17 died. Only 3½ per cent. of the typhoid cases proved fatal. The payments of friends and parents of patients during the year amounted to £318 15s. 6d.

Alderley House, Booth-street, has been secured, at a cost of £3000, for the purposes of the Balmain Cottage Hospital.

The report of the Newcastle Hospital shows that 451 patients were treated during last year, of whom 36 died.

At a recent meeting of the board of directors of the Sydney Hospital Mr. John Howard was appointed as chief dispenser, in the room of Hyam Israel, deceased. Mr. Howard is a M.P.S., N.S.W., and an ex-student of the Technical College. Mr. C. H. Swayne has been appointed assistant dispenser, in the place of J. Howard, resigned.

During the month of January 32 additions were made to the roll of students of the department of pharmacy, and public lectures have been given by the examiner (Dr. Roth) on physiology. The curriculum of three years' study in this department has been finally revised, and is only waiting acceptance by the Board of Technical Education before incorporation into the new calendar, which, we hope, will leave the hands of the Government Printer at an early date.

A case of excessive overcharge by a druggist was recently brought to light. At the latter end of January a gentleman sent to a druggist in one of our leading thoroughfares for a mixture containing four grains of cocaine hydrochlor, when this drug was selling at the price of eightpence per grain, but the druggist asked £2 for the mixture, and finally said that he would be content with 30s.

The children farmed out from the Randwick Asylum appear not to be well treated so far as "medical comforts" are concerned. At one of the "Homes" several cases of ophthalmia have occurred, and the belladonna solution supplied appears to have been kept in a beer bottle. When the inspector came round he was shown a small phial labelled Essence of Ginger, that had been employed by the "mother," who said that it was labelled wrongly. Fortunately no fatal results ensued from the careless way in which the belladonna solution was supplied. It is not at all uncommon, however, at the various hospital or club dispensaries for persons to bring all sorts of vessels for their medicine. Lemonade bottles, for instance, are often presented for liniments; and, when a liniment and a mixture is ordered, the dispenser has often to explain that the porter bottle is the mixture, and the sodawater bottle is the lotion. Active measures are being taken to make the patients provide proper receptacles for their medicines, but one dispenser got into trouble with the club authorities for refusing to supply turpentine liniment in a jug.

Typhoid is much complained of in many localities. At Orange it is stated to be especially prevalent. An outbreak at Hindmarsh is said to have arisen from drinking water in which a dead cow had been lying. A petition, signed by 43 medical practitioners of Sydney, was presented at a meeting of the Sydney aldermen last month. The petition stated that the spread of typhoid was viewed with alarm, and that the infection might be expected to increase in virulence as the season advanced. The disease was attributed to the defective means employed for the removal of excreta, which was allowed to accumulate without being disinfected. Consequent upon this petition, a resolution was carried affirming the desirability of adopting some means for the proper removal of night soil.

FARADAY proved the magnetic condition of matter, and that magnetism, unlike electricity, cannot be insulated.

PROFESSOR: "Name an oxide." Student: "Leather." Professor: "Oxide of what?" Student: "Ox-hide of beef." Professor faints.

THE largest pharmacy in Europe (says the Vienna *Med. Zeitung*) is at Moscow, that of Waldemar Ferrein, where about 70 or 80 assistants are employed, and seven to eight hundred prescriptions are prepared daily.

South Australia.

14th March, 1886.

THE monthly meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia was held in the society's room at Industrial Chambers, King William-street, on Tuesday, 3rd March. Present: The president, Mr. Harrison, in the chair, and Messrs. Grundy, Poole, Allison, Main, Evans, Wells, Wood, Neville, and White.

Several applications for membership were discussed, and the nominations of the previous meeting were passed.

The desirability of appointing a board of examiners was mentioned, and it was resolved that such a board should be nominated at the next meeting of the society. The president stated that several were preparing themselves for the examinations.

The vexed question of doctors' dispensing commissions was brought up by Mr. Allison, who asked that a united effort should be made to abolish them; but, though this was considered desirable, his scheme was thought by several present to be impracticable.

The proposal for a new rule handed in at last meeting by Mr. White was read and confirmed.

A pleasing and encouraging feature in pharmaceutical matters here is the fact that so many are taking a practical interest in the examinations. If these were compulsory, and thus commercial necessities, this might not be wondered at; but inasmuch as they are voluntary, and the status they confer honorary only, it is very satisfactory to note that, as the president of the society stated, several are desirous of gaining that better knowledge of pharmacy and higher standing in it which, if successful in passing the examinations, they will undoubtedly attain, because it will certainly be the aim of the examiners to make their test as thorough as possible. Of course, successful candidates will not find the honour quite barren commercially either.

The existing depression has been somewhat increased by the unfortunate failure of the Commercial Bank, and the fact that several chemists are shareholders probably means that they will lose more or less heavily; this is the more to be regretted when we consider the long hours and close work which most pharmacists experience in gaining a competence.

Some cases of poisoning have occurred lately.

On 2nd March Mr. F. Green, a traveller for Mr. R. Evans, tailor, of Adelaide, died at Salisbury, from an overdose of laudanum. At the inquest it transpired that the deceased, who was about twenty-five years of age, sent to a store in the township for some laudanum, to ease toothache. It was supplied to him, labelled poison. Green refused to take tea, and went to his room. As he remained there several hours, the servants of the hotel where he was staying knocked at the door two or three times, but, receiving no answer, supposed he was asleep. Late at night the landlord went to his room, and found, to his astonishment, that Green was apparently dead. Dr. J. P. Baker was called in, and discovered that deceased was still breathing, but irregularly. The symptoms all pointed to opium poisoning, and, although the doctor tried various means of restoration, Green died an hour or two later. The verdict was—The deceased came to his death accidentally, through taking an overdose of laudanum while suffering severely from neuralgia.

On the same day the son of Mr. F. Semmins, of Gordon, died suddenly, through eating ant poison, which was placed under the safe. The child, who was about two and a half years old, ate the poison during its mother's absence.

Another family has been poisoned by eating tinned fish. Those only who partook of the fish when the tin was first opened do not seem to have suffered, but the five children who ate the remainder from the tin on the following day were soon taken ill, and one died.

The shop of Mr. Jackson, Kapunda, had a narrow escape from being burnt down lately. Master Arthur Jackson, whilst reading presumably in bed, fell asleep, and the drapery of the bed was in some way ignited by the candle. The flames had made some progress in the room, and considerable damage had been done to the floor, furniture, partition, etc., when the fire was discovered, and the lad, who was stupefied by the smoke, fortunately rescued. The efforts of the household to extinguish the flames were successful.

Messrs. Borrow and Haycroft, of Adelaide, have begun to work their new patent for extracting the tanning material from the wattle tree, by which the whole of the tree is utilised. The "Tannic Extract," which is of the colour and consistency of treacle, is stated to have been successfully used, some leather of superior quality having been prepared by tanners who have tried it.

Dr. H. E. Astles, of Adelaide, has issued a little pamphlet, "Fermented Liquors—Shall I Use them or Not?" Of alcohol as a medicine the doctor speaks most favourably, though its administration demands the exercise of great care and skill. He says:—"I can look back upon a number of cases of typhoid that were snatched, as if from the grave, by the liberal use of good champagne and brandy, and so with pneumonia and other exhausting diseases."

Typhoid fever appears to be as prevalent in various localities here as in the other colonies.

Tasmania.

JOHN LAMBERT NICHOLSON has been duly licensed as a dispenser of medicines.

Amy Freeman, aged two years, was successfully treated at the Hobart Hospital during the latter part of last month. The child had accidentally swallowed some hartshorn and oil liniment, and alarming effects ensued.

At a recent meeting of the Launceston Municipal Council complaint was made that the rocks near that favourite show-spot—the cataract—had been disfigured by painting upon them a patent medicine advertisement. It was ordered that a bye-law should be prepared to prevent the locality from being so disfigured.

A Hobart infant having become suddenly unwell, keeping the household awake day and night with its screams, Dr. Benjafield was called in and discovered the trouble to have arisen from the presence of three maggots in the child's ear. The intruders, which were successfully extracted, had probably been deposited during sleep.

A resident of Sheffield, Leslie Day, lately had a very narrow escape from death by snake-bite. A large black snake bit him on the right thumb as he was walking in the bush, near Kimberley's Ford. The sufferer tied a piece of twine above the wound and hurried on for three miles in search of assistance. When met with, he was in an almost unconscious state, and a messenger was sent for Mr. J. Dreadon, chemist, of Sheffield, who rode three miles in fifteen minutes to Day's assistance, and, by cutting the injured thumb and injecting ammonia, succeeded in saving the man's life.

Mr. Jos. Kemp has been conducting experiments with a snake-poison antidote which is supposed to be identical with Underwood's. Cats and dogs

were the animals operated upon, and in every instance the animals appeared to feel no ill effects from snake-bite on the antidote being applied, although those animals who were bitten and not operated upon with the antidote speedily succumbed. Mr. Kemp is stated to have learned the secret of the preparation of the antidote from Underwood when the latter was staying on the North-west Coast some years ago.

The Launceston sanitary officer's report for the half-year ending 31st December last states the deaths which have occurred within the municipal boundaries during that term to have been 428; births, 734. Infant mortality (under one year) is stated at 173 per thousand.

New Zealand.

5th March.

ON the 27th February Sir Julius Vogel, Chief Secretary and Colonial Treasurer, addressed a large meeting of the burgesses of Auckland, in the Theatre Royal, and amongst those present on the platform were Mr. Graves Aickin, president of the Pharmacy Board, and Mr. Sharland, wholesale druggist of this city. At the close of the proceedings Mr. T. B. Hill, another pharmaceutical chemist, made the following remarks, as reported in the *Evening Bell*:—"Mr. T. B. Hill said Sir Julius Vogel told them if there should be another session of Parliament before the dissolution a cost of £25,000 would be entailed. He asked the meeting to signify its approval or otherwise of a dissolution taking place before another session. Mr. Hill, being interrupted by cries of 'Cut it short,' had to retire without effecting what he desired." From this the readers of the *Journal of Pharmacy* will see the active part the members of the pharmaceutical profession here take in matters outside their own business. This is in marked contrast with what is usually the case in the old country, where one finds the druggist so fully occupied in getting a living that he has but little time and inclination to meddle with matters of Imperial legislation. Sir Julius, should he carry through the policy sketched out in his address, proposes to increase the import duties of the colony. It is to be hoped that chemicals, drugs, surgical instruments, &c., &c., may not be affected. Drugs and druggists' sundries at present are charged an *ad valorem* duty of 15 per cent., and some chemicals much more—for instance, soda carbonate two shillings per cwt.; whereas acid nitric, borax, essential oils, glycerine, soda ash, soda sulphate, and many other chemicals come in free. It is curious that the crude and coarse chemicals which perhaps could be manufactured profitably here are free, while those articles which can only be produced remuneratively in old and settled communities—and the impost of which can only amount to a comparatively trifling sum—are vexatiously taxed.

The Auckland *Evening Star* of 26th February, in reporting the mishap on board the Union steamer *Manapouri*, caused by nitric acid, heads its account thus:—"Steamer *Manapouri* on fire. Narrow escape of the vessel. Caused by nitric acid." It is to be regretted that such misleading headings should pass current as a record of accidents of such a nature, and such looseness of statement points to the fact that instruction in the nature and uses of some of the commoner manufacturing agents should form a part of every child's education. No doubt Captain Logan deserves great credit for his able direction of the operations, but it seems only reasonable to think that when the directing officers found that reddish fumes escaped at the opening of the hatch they

would have exercised some judgment, and have rigged up a wind sail, so that the hold might have been ventilated before Mr. Morris and his assistants went into the marine pit of Tophet. As it is, three gallant fellows have lost their lives.

It is proposed by the Council of the Auckland University to open half a medical school here—that is to say, provide a two-years' course, so that a student shall be able to work up his anatomy and physiology for the "first" college. Of course, many people will say "half a loaf is better than none," but the thinking section of the community are of opinion that it will be better to expend any available funds in making the departments of teaching already open more complete in the way of equipment than they are at present. The appliances that the professors at present have are far from perfect, the lecture theatre is little better than a crazy old barn, and the laboratory leaves much to be desired.

Mr. Lamonte, who, no doubt, the Australians know well by repute, arrived here by the mail steamer from Sydney on the 2nd, and has now gone up to the Thames to superintend the starting of one of his smelting furnaces, which was "blown into" at 8 o'clock this morning. The telegram says that the stone which is to be put through varies in value from £9 to £90 per ton. It is to be hoped that the venture may be a success, for just at present there is *some* commercial depression in New Zealand.

The third Wednesday in next month is the day fixed for holding the examination of the Pharmacy Board. It is extremely problematical if many students will present themselves. The summer has been exceptionally hot and trying, and it is scarcely reasonable to expect young men after a tiresome day's business to take up the B.P., or Attfield, or some other text book, and "grind" a couple of hours before going to bed.

A death from accidental poisoning by morphia is reported from Green Island, the victim of the mishap being a chemist. Green Island is a small township in Otago, five miles south by rail from Dunedin, with three hotels and two churches, the district being surrounded by coal or lignite pits.

The election of the licensing committees has just concluded, and the U.K. alliance have not scored an absolute victory, as they did last year. This, perhaps, is a matter for regret, for the only possible way the teetotal "fad" can be cured is for the *régime* of the temperance committees to become so irksome that the people will not tolerate it. The real blot in the administration of the Licensing Act is that public-houses are allowed to have screens placed before the bars, and cunningly arranged private doors by which the confirmed tippler can slip in and remain in unseen. Repressive legislation will never cure drunkenness, but add another vice to the one already existing—viz., deception. Again—and here is where it is likely to affect the pharmacist—it may drive the alcoholist to the druggist's shop, although, as a matter of fact, the "tone" through the whole of the trade is such that very few, if any, pharmacists would willingly lend themselves to pandering to the craving for drink.

A death occurred in Auckland the other day which illustrates how needful it is to be particularly careful in the self-administration of powerful drugs. A Dr. Huxtable, who had recently returned from Europe, was—so the evidence goes to show—troubled with insomnia. One night last week, being unable to sleep, he left his bedroom, taking a pillow with him, and went downstairs into the dining-room, intending, apparently, to inhale a small quantity of chloroform, which he was in the habit of doing, and so obtain sleep. Mrs. Huxtable, knowing her husband's custom, felt no uneasiness in the matter. The following morning the servant, finding the door of the dining-room locked from the inside, called the doctor's wife, and the door was forced. The doctor

was then found, with his head fallen forward into a cup containing a sponge, which had evidently been saturated with chloroform. Of course a verdict in accordance with the evidence was returned, and the matter ended.

The election of the Auckland licensing committees takes place on the 18th of this month, and Mr. Graves Aickin, president of the Pharmacy Board, and chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, is one of the five gentlemen requisitioned by a popular and influential committee to stand in the interest of, let us say, common sense.

In the matter of things purely pharmaceutical there is absolutely nothing of interest to write about, and the correspondent who would have to confine himself to doings purely technical would be in the position of the Israelites of old, having to make bricks without straw.

Queensland.

I AM afraid you will almost have given up receiving any communication from me this month, but the fact is I have delayed and delayed in hopes that I might be able to report the approval by the Governor-in-Council of the regulations under the Pharmacy Act, and that the date had been fixed for holding an examination. But although I am still unable to report progress in that respect, I trust and believe I shall be able to state next month that the said regulations, which have been delayed lately in consequence of the absence of the Premier at the Federal Council, have not only been approved and gazetted, but that the members of the Board are making active preparations for an examination.

A Pharmacy Act was, as I daresay many of your readers know, passed in Queensland in the year 1884, and on the 14th of May, 1885, the following gentlemen were appointed by his Excellency the Governor-in-Council to be members of the Pharmacy Board of Queensland:—Dr. James Hill, Dr. J. Clement Ellison, Dr. Benson, Mr. Edward Taylor (of Berkley, Taylor & Co.), Mr. J. H. Fitzgibbon, Mr. C. H. Fletcher Yeo, and Mr. A. W. Field. The first meeting of the Board was held on the 3rd of July, 1885, when all the members were present, with the exception of Dr. Ellison and Dr. Benson—who has since died, leaving a vacancy on the Board, which has not yet been filled up. At this meeting Mr. Edward Taylor was elected president, and Mr. Frank Taylor to the position of secretary and registrar.

The Board have since then held sixteen meetings, when a good deal of preliminary work was got through, and every effort made by the members to get the regulations passed and approved, so as to hold an examination at as early a date as possible, and the Board have much pleasure in recording their thanks to Mr. Harry Shillinglaw, the secretary and registrar of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, for the very ready way in which he has assisted the Queensland Board in giving them a copy of the Victorian regulations as a guide to go by, and any other information in his power.

At the second meeting of the Board it was resolved that a certificate or diploma of having passed an examination of competency of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, New Zealand, or New South Wales be recognised as a sufficient qualification for registration under the Queensland Pharmacy Act of 1884. This resolution cannot, of course, come into operation until confirmed by the Governor, after the regulations have been gazetted; and I fancy it will remain an open question pending the reciprocal recognition of certificates.

At the other meetings the Board have been principally occupied with the draft regulations, applications from persons wishing to be registered (several of whom, not having a certificate of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, must wait a little longer), and several matters of minor importance not worth mentioning here.

Since the first meeting of the Board the following gentlemen, holding certificates from the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, have been registered as pharmaceutical chemists in Queensland, viz:—William Wilcox, John Goodrick, Dr. Thos. Ridgley, Alfred Jeffries Timbury, and Philip Neville Taylor. Besides these, the medical Board registered thirteen gentlemen since the 1st January, 1883, and before the Pharmacy Act came into force, whose names and latest addresses will be found in the pharmaceutical list for 1883, now in the printer's hands. Referring to this list, I may mention that it may be procured for the sum of one shilling from the registrar of the Pharmacy Board, Brisbane, and it is most desirable that he should be advised of any incorrect addresses, and be notified when any chemist mentioned therein changes his pharmacy to another address.

Your readers will be surprised to hear that Parliament declines to grant the small sum of £150 for the purposes of the Pharmacy Board. This amount was asked for to defray incidental expenses while getting the Pharmacy Act into work. I am glad to know that your Government is a little more generous and alive to the interests of the public than the majority of the House was here when the item was brought on, and hope when the next Estimates are under consideration that we shall not be left out in the cold. In consequence of being left without funds, the Board have had to beg from the Pharmaceutical Society, by way of loans, for sufficient money to defray expenses, and I understand that the Society are, by a circular letter, inviting persons interested to become members and so resuscitate the Society, which has of late rather fallen off through various causes.

I see that Mr. M. H. Cormack, of Queen-street, Brisbane, has purchased the pharmacy in George-street, Brisbane, lately carried on by Messrs Sutherland Bros., and the pharmacy in Edward-street, lately carried on by Messrs. Moffatt Bros., for the convenience of his numerous customers in those localities.

Mr. Abraham Martin, of Queen-street, has lately been appointed pharmaceutical chemist to his Excellency the Governor (Sir Anthony Musgrave) and family.

I should be glad if your readers in Queensland would forward any little items of interest concerning chemists to the registrar, the Pharmacy Board, Brisbane, who will, at all times, be glad to receive them.

THE alarming prevalence of throat affections among children in Brisbane has been traced to impure milk, a considerable proportion of the cows of the city and suburbs being found to be suffering from cow-pox. As a consequence, the genuine article has been to a great extent superseded by condensed milk.

A married woman named Ruth Robinson was presented at the Roma Police Court, on the 8th ultimo, charged with the murder of her first husband, Robert Birkett. The crime is stated to have been committed as far back as December, 1883. Frances Martindale, a married sister of the prisoner, deposed that between the 15th and 25th December of the year named the prisoner had administered doses of white precipitate and oxalic acid to the deceased in his soup, and that on the night of the 1st January, 1884, she gave him a dose of laudanum in a sleeping draught, from the effects of which he died. Of all this the witness acknowledged she was thoroughly cognisant. The witness declared she did not know the nature of an oath, and that she was not sorry for her sister,

and contradicted herself on some points, though adhering to the main facts as regarded the poisoning. The police magistrate ordered the witness' arrest as an accessory to the crime, and both prisoners were remanded for further inquiry.

The balance-sheet and report of the Townsville Hospital shows the receipts for the year to have been £1691 7s. 7d. A fear is expressed that the increase in patients is so disproportionate to the rate of revenue that the funds of the institution will be exhausted by about August or September. The cost of patients per diem is stated at 4s. 3½d., as against 4s 10½d. for last year.

A recent inspection of the Neardie Antimony Mining and Smelting Company's property showed that the lodes already opened would give employment to a number of men for a lifetime, the limited demand for antimony being the company's only trouble.

At Ipswich last month an infant named Wyatt, aged seven months, was accidentally poisoned. The child had been in ill-health, and under medical treatment. About midnight the father arose to give the child some of the medicine which had been prescribed for it, but inadvertently administered a spoonful of liniment which had been used some time previously for the sore throat of another child. Dr. Lossberg was at once called in, but the case was hopeless, and the little sufferer expired in great agony at nine o'clock on the following morning.

Apropos of the maize-blight which is complained of in several parts of the colony, and which appears to be chiefly due to a fungus, Mr. A. Davidson, the practical teacher of the Board of Technical Education on the Clarence, recommends that, after the corn has been pulled, the stalks be instantly burned, and that the seed sown in the next season should be first steeped for a few minutes in a solution of bluestone water.

It is stated that Mr. Colin Munroe, of Dryine plantation, Lower Burdekin, has made very successful experiments in preserving milk. By Mr. Munroe's plan the milk is condensed by boiling in vacuum without sugar. It is said to preserve its ordinary appearance, and only requires to be reduced with water to the strength required when about to be used. It has nothing of the sickly flavour of the imported article, or milk preserved with sugar in the ordinary way, and retains all the freshness of new milk. Mr. Munroe has signified his intention of engaging largely in this industry.

The Queensland *Government Gazette* of 13th February publishes a list of pharmaceutical chemists qualified on that date to practise in Queensland under the Pharmacy Act 1884.

Dr. Johnstone has been dismissed from the Blackall Hospital. It is stated that a disagreement arose between the doctor and the chemist, the medico refusing to give the chemist any prescriptions. A female patient, being thus neglected, complained to the authorities, and the doctor then turned the woman out, although not nearly convalescent.

M. E. COCARDAS describes and figures in the *Bulletin de la Société Botanique de France* the various forms of penicillium ferment grown on different pharmaceutical extracts, and arrives at the conclusion that the ferment causes in the extract changes comparable to those effected by heat, viz., the absorption of oxygen and disengagement of carbonic acid, with formation of water, causing, in consequence, dilution of the extract. The exact chemical changes are, however, complex, and vary with the special extract. The penicillium itself is subject to a series of variations, but all are varieties in the evolution of a single form.
—*Pharmaceutical Journal.*

Notes and Abstracts.

AN AMERICAN CURE FOR SNAKE-BITE.

DEALING with the subject of hydrophobia, a writer in the *Scientific American* (16th January) extols the virtues of a "positive" remedy in use in New Granada and Guatemala for the bites of a number of varieties of poisonous snakes, as well as scorpions, tarantulas, and other reptiles and animals. The remedy referred to is the seeds of a small tree of the order *Simarubæa*, indigenous to Granada, Guatemala, and Mexico. The seeds are known as cedron seed, and the tree as simaba cedron. A fruit with a single seed, like the peach or olive, is grown, and the seed is from an inch to one and a half inch in length, four-fifths of an inch in width or more, and half an inch in thickness; flat or concave on one side, and convex on the other; hard, and when cut with a knife shows almost a metallic lustre; very bitter indeed. The writer states that the natives cut the seed, and chew and swallow pieces of the bean. Sometimes, if spirits are available, they dip slices or chips of the bean in brandy, whisky, or other spirits, and then wash the wound, swallowing meanwhile other portions. When thus armed with the cedron seeds, "they have a reliable antidote, and seemingly do not care much about a snake-bite, if only the cedron seeds are at hand." The analysis of the seed has not, so far as the writer is aware, been made, but it is a somewhat curious fact, he adds, "that cedron seed should be so completely an antidote to the rattlesnake poison, which contains formic acid, and also for the specific virus of the rabid dog, wolf, cat, fox, or other animal, and is, practically, the first really reliable cure of rabies known."

THE WONDERS OF COAL TAR.

THIRTY years ago the problem with gas manufacturers was to get rid of this foul and then utterly useless refuse of the retorts, coal tar. The aid of chemistry was sought in working out the solution. With no thought beyond the utter eradication of the offensive tar, the chemists discovered naphtha, which, however, could not be applied with safety to any practical purpose. The naphtha being extracted, the tar was left in the form of a heavy oil, which was still more of a nuisance than the original oil, as it was more difficult to store and handle. Belliel discovered a channel for this oil, which partially relieved the tar nuisance. Then Faraday came into the field with his discovery of benzine as a product of the coal tar. In 1857 Perkins demonstrated the great value of coal tar by his discovery of its aniline properties, a discovery that has almost revolutionised the dye-stuff trade. Perkins took coal tar naphtha, and, boiling it in a retort, obtained a chemical action, which resulted in benzole and nitro-benzole. Adding water to this, the nitro-benzole was deposited in the form of a thick oily mass. This he experimented upon, and, finally, by the addition of acid and iron filings, he produced the colourless fluid, aniline. This liquid he treated with various chemical salts, and the result was green crystals of a metallic lustre. These he found were capable of producing, under different chemical reactions, the most brilliant and gorgeous dyes—the aniline hues of the paint and dye trades of to-day. From the light oil of the tar a valuable naphtha solvent for india rubber was next obtained, and then the invaluable discovery of carbolic acid was made. And, "last not least," in 1869 the great discovery of allizerene resulted from further experiments with the refuse of the once worthless and troublesome coal tar.

A NEW DEPARTURE IN GAS MAKING.

IN a recent communication to the Académie des Sciences MM. Félix-Hembert and Henry describe an improved method of making water gas, which promises to affect in no inconsiderable degree the consumption of coal, and modify some of the processes of iron manufacture. Briefly described, the process is as follows:—A jet of superheated steam is directed into a retort filled with incandescent coke. The oxygen unites with the carbon to form carbon monoxide, and hydrogen is liberated. Up to this point there is nothing new in the process. But now these gases are led away to a second retort, filled with lumps of some refractory substance maintained at a red heat. The use of the refractory material is to expose a large surface to the incoming gases. Into this second retort there is led away at the same time a jet of steam superheated to the point of dissociation. The oxygen of this steam seizes upon the carbon monoxide, to form dioxide, and more hydrogen is liberated. To remove the carbon dioxide the gases are passed through milk of lime, and the pure hydrogen is led away to the reservoir. The authors of the communication say that one ton of coke produces about 96,000ft. of gas, which is about eleven times the quantity obtained from a ton of coal. Not the least astonishing part of the process is the cost of gas, which is said to be about one-fifth of a penny per 1000ft. It is easy to see the numerous applications of such a gas for heating purposes; but the inventors have arranged to make a start with it for lighting. How the carburation is to be effected is not stated, but it is announced that the little town of Boulogne-sur-Seine is to be lighted with this gas during the winter. The result of this experiment will be watched with great interest.

USES OF SULPHURIC ACID.

SOME of M. Pasteur's latest experiments have proved that water containing 2 per cent. of concentrated sulphuric acid possesses the property of destroying bacteria, and this mixture of acid and water is recommended for disinfecting efficaciously the floors of stables, mangers, cattle-stalls, court-yards, areas of dwellings, dust bins, etc. Sulphuric acid, properly diluted, is a valuable cooling and astringent remedy. It is used to acidify certain decoctions or infusions. Only the dilute acid (in most countries, one part pure acid, nine parts water) is ever used medicinally. Ten to twenty-four drops of this dilute pharmaceutical acid will give an agreeable acidity to one quart of the infusion or other liquid. As many fever patients are fed principally on milk, care must be taken never to give liquids containing sulphuric acid or acid lemonades of any kind too soon after milk has been given, otherwise it may produce unpleasant symptoms of indigestion. In France, an alcoholised sulphuric acid is sometimes used. It is made by adding concentrated sulphuric acid, 100 parts, to alcohol (of 85 per cent.), 300 parts, and is generally coloured red by the addition of 4 parts of the petals of the red poppy. Sulphuric lemonade is made from this according to the formula:—

						parts.
Alcoholised sulphuric acid	...	...	...	...	...	3
Simple syrup	...	...	...	...	...	60
Water	...	...	...	...	...	1000

This is also known as "mineral lemonade."—*Chemist and Druggist.*

SUBLIMATION OF OXALIC ACID.—According to M. Siegfried, oxalic acid sublimes at several degrees below 100° C.—*American Journal of Pharmacy.*

ASTHMA.—Dr. Mulheron recommends the following formula :—

R Ammon. chlorid.	...	...	...	...	...	3iis.
Spt. æth. nit.	...	...	...	...	...	3iis.
Æther sulph.	...	...	...	...	...	3iii.
Syrup ipecac.	...	...	...	...	...	3i.
Ext. glycer. ...	...	...	...	...	...	3vi.

M. Sig. One teaspoonful three times a day.

—*Prov. Med. Journ.*

IMPOTENCE.—Dr. Bartholow uses the following formula :—

R Ext. cannabis ind.	...	...	...	...	...	gr. x.
Ag. ext. ergotin.	...	...	...	...	...	3ii.
Ext. nucis. vom.	...	...	...	...	...	gr. x.

M. Ft. pil. No. xx. One morning and evening.

—*Prov. Med. Journ.*

WHOOPING COUGH.—Dr. Hammond prescribes :—

R Ammon. bromid.	...	...	...	...	...	Si.
Tr. lobeliae	...	...	...	...	...	gtt. xx.
Tr. stramonii...	...	...	...	...	...	gtt. vi.
Eucal. oil	...	...	...	...	...	gt. vi.
Syrupi pruni virg.	...	...	...	...	...	3i.
Elise cort.	...	...	...	...	...	3iis.
Aquæ	...	...	...	...	...	3i.

M. Sig. 10 to 12 drops every four hours.

—*Prov. Med. Journ.*

LOCAL APPLICATION FOR GOUT.—Dr. Rothe recommends for gouty joints the repeated use of cold douches, followed by applications of the following lotion :—

Liquor. plumbi acetatis	...	...	...	...	15 parts.
Spiritis vini	...	...	...	...	25 "
Tr. opii ammoniat	...	...	...	...	5 "
Aquæ fortis	...	...	...	...	300 "

Apply with compresses, and cover with rubber tissue. Great relief from pain is said to follow. *Memorabilien.*

CHILBLAIN CRAYONS—

Camphor	...	...	...	...	...	3 parts.
Iodine	...	...	...	...	...	6 "
Olive Oil	...	...	...	...	...	96 "
Paraffin	...	...	...	...	...	37 "
Alcohol	...	...	...	...	...	q. s.

Dissolve the camphor in the oil, and the iodine in as small a quantity of alcohol as possible. Add the mixed liquids to the melted paraffin, and pour the whole in suitable moulds. The pencil can be rendered hard or soft by the addition or diminution of olive oil.—*Journ. de Méd. de Paris.*

CARBUNCLE OINTMENT.—Dr. Bulkley, says the *Deutsch. Am. Apoth. Zeit.*, recommends an ointment for carbuncles, prepared by mixing 2 drachms extract of ergot and 1 drachm zinc oxide with enough simple ointment to make 1 ounce. The carbuncle is to be covered with a piece of lint, upon the woolly side of which the ointment should be spread. The ointment may be rendered firmer, if desired, by the incorporation of a little white wax. Care should be taken, if the application is changed, not to subject the affected part to the action of the air.

QUININE lactate, dissolved in four parts of water, is recommended by Vigier for hypodermic use. The salt is rich in alkaloid, has a neutral reaction, and its injection does not produce pain or inflammation.—*Gaz. Hebdom.*

COCAIN in the form of a 4 per cent. solution of the hydrochlorate has been found useful in checking infantile diarrhoea due to the irritation caused by teething. The solution is rubbed on the gums at intervals of half an hour (*Ther. Gaz.*, p. 789). The value of cocaine in the cure of the morphine habit has been confirmed by Schmidt and Kank. They find that it must be given in increasing doses while the morphine is decreased, the cocaine being injected subcutaneously in a 5 per cent. watery solution. The dose is $\frac{1}{2}$ grain, but may be increased to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ grain, but 3 grains should never be exceeded.—*Pharmaceutical Journal*.

BEING desirous of clearing up the conflicting statements respecting the capability of zinc to decompose water, M. L'Hôte specially prepared some chemically pure zinc for the test by treating some precipitated zinc oxide with lamp black previously heated to redness and distilling (*Comptes Rend.*, ci., 1153). He found that this pure zinc when heated with water in a flask arranged so as to collect disengaged gas over mercury gave rise to no evolution of hydrogen even when the boiling was prolonged, and further, that it was unattacked by dilute sulphuric acid. But the chemical properties of the metal were completely modified by the introduction of the most minute quantity of iron. It was sufficient for this purpose simply to stir with an iron rod the fused zinc before granulating it; for although on trituration with dilute permanganate solution the zinc then showed only two or three parts per thousand of iron, it decomposed boiling water, with evolution of hydrogen gas, and was also attacked by dilute sulphuric acid. The presence of a minute quantity of arsenic or antimony was found to have an effect similar to iron in modifying the properties of zinc, and M. L'Hôte makes the significant remark that all commercial zinc decomposes water when boiled with it. M. L'Hôte suggests that this observation might be utilised in cases where, in using the Marsh apparatus, the zinc is attacked with difficulty; instead of adding a little metallic salt, which might introduce arsenic, he would prefer to re-melt the zinc and stir it with an iron rod.—*Pharmaceutical Journal*.

THE practice of inoculation with virus as a preventive of hydrophobia is claimed by the German medical journals to have been discussed by them as far back as 1849.

ATTENTION has recently been called to the curative properties of the albumen of hens' eggs in severe diarrhoeal affections. Two cases of chronic enteritis and diarrhoea are related which, having resisted all treatment, speedily made complete recoveries under the use of egg albumen. The same diet is strongly recommended in the diarrhoea accompanying febrile cachexia, and in that of phthisis. In two cases of diarrhoea dependent upon tertiary syphilis, it was found of no avail, but diffuse amyloid degeneration of the arterioles of the villi was found in these cases on post-mortem examination. The whites of eight or ten eggs are beaten up and made into an emulsion with a pint of water. This is to be taken in divided quantities during the day. More may be given if desired. The insipid taste can be improved with lemon, anise, or sugar. In case of colic, a few drops of tincture of opium may be added.

THE *Revue Scientifique* states that a mixture of perfectly dry permanganate of potassium with two or three parts of concentrated sulphuric acid is a most powerful oxidizing agent, owing to the separation of permanganic acid, and its immediate decomposition with the liberation of the oxygen. Volatile oils are violently affected by this mixture if about ten drops are placed in a little dish and then touched with a stout glass rod previously dipped into the mixture. The following produce explosions, often violent ones: Oils of thyme, mace, turpentine (rectified), spike, cinnamon, origanum, rue, cubeb, and lemon. The

following oils are simply influenced, particularly if poured upon blotting paper and touched with the mixture, though under certain still unknown circumstances explosions may occur: Oils of rosemary, lavender, cloves, rose, geranium, gaultheria, caraway, cajeput, bitter almond, and rectified petroleum. The following substances are ignited without explosion: Alcohol, ether, wood spirit, benzol, chlorelayl, sulphide of carbon, and cotton. Guncotton and gunpowder are not ignited.

SAYS the London *Daily Telegraph*:—"A ganja eater is a criminal of which we have happily no counterpart. He is an Asiatic monster. We hear, no doubt, of men going mad with drink, but their frenzy differs both in degree and kind from that which results from indulgence in the juice of hemp. For ganja is a preparation of this herb, and, though its production is punishable by the laws of India, it is, unfortunately, so easy to procure that crime from this cause is constantly occurring. Opium and ganja are the two narcotics best known in the East. In the West, fortunately, we have but little experience of either. The former steals away, albeit with consummate fascination, a man's intellectual energies, and in consequence, therefore, his physical energies, too. The latter makes a mad, wild beast of him; works him up suddenly into a frenzy of malignant purpose, reckless of his own life or of others.' The opium-eater is an innocuous and harmless person. The ganja-eater, on the other hand, is invariably a law breaker. He becomes at once a criminal. The villainous decoction seems to have the power of bringing to the surface all that is vicious and bad in its most violent form. Of such men murderers and assassins are made. In the Ghazi village it is ganja orbang, as the different preparations of hemp are called, which is used for the stimulation of the fanatics, who are then sent out into the world to run-a-muck and to kill and be killed for the faith. Hasheesh is another product of this terrible plant, and is itself the root of the word assassin."

THE manufacture of cheap sodium by an electrolytic process has been announced in France. An engineer of Lyons, M. Lossier, states that he will soon be in a position to sell sodium in large quantities at a price of about 25 centimes per kilo—not much over one penny a pound.

DR. H. W. VOGEL, in the *Photographischer Mittheilungen*, recommends for removing silver stains from the hands the same compound that has been used as a reducer—*i.e.*, a mixture of ferricyanide of potassium and hyposulphite of soda. A few crystals of the former substance are dissolved in a solution of hypo, or from 10 to 20 per cent. of a 20 per cent. solution of the ferricyanide may be added to the hypo solution, and applied to the stains. This substance is not poisonous, and does not destroy the colour of articles of clothing.

USING an artificial gastric juice of hydrochloric acid and pepsin, Chittendon and Cummins have determined the relative digestibility of various foods to be as follows:—Beef, 100; veal, 95; mutton, 92; chicken (light meat), 87; ditto (dark meat), 84; salmon, 92; mackerel, 86; haddock, 82; trout, 78; lobster (young), 88; ditto (large female), 79; ditto (large male), 69; fresh cod, 72.

SAID the *Pall Mall Gazette* recently:—"There are no less than 247 students from the colonies, chiefly Australian and South African, studying at Edinburgh University, almost wholly attached to the medical school. Their most remarkable characteristic is their splendid physique.

THE ancient Egyptians had considerable chemical knowledge. They were skilled in smelting ores and working metals, had a good understanding of dyes, made glass, and knew how to prevent decomposition of dead animal matter; while the priesthood evidently had some idea of pharmaceutical chemistry.

MR. WILLIAM T. EVANS reports, in the *British Medical Journal*, 19th December, 1885, a case of a newly-born nursing infant which was fatally poisoned by opium given to the mother for after pains.

To a correspondent who asks about Chinese opium-smoking—*i.e.*, as to the kind of pipes they use, how they prepare or mix the crude opium, etc.—the *Scientific American* replies as follows:—The essential part of the pipe is the head or bowl, made generally of terra cotta, but capable of being produced from a variety of materials. This bowl, on its outer surface, is provided with a small aperture, measuring, perhaps, one-sixteenth of an inch in diameter, round which the product is placed. On the side of the bowl opposite to this aperture it is fixed to the tube through which the smoke is conducted to the mouth. This tube, of bamboo or any hollowed-out wood, is from 12 to 16 inches long from the bowl to the mouth-piece, but in the Chinese pipes it is mostly prolonged for from 4 to 6 inches beyond the bowl in the direction opposite the mouth-piece. The Chinese use a mixture of opium with sam-shu (a variety of gin), made up in the consistency of treacle. The ordinary pharmacopœial extract may be used.

AN electrician asserts that in bodies in which life is not extinct, the temperature rises upon the application of an electric current, but never in the case of actual death. This fact supplies a test for use in cases where life is suspected to remain in persons apparently dead.

AN ingenious Japanese has discovered a process of making paper from seaweed. It is thick in texture, and sufficiently transparent to be substituted for window glass. When coloured, it makes an excellent imitation of stained glass.

THE methods hitherto employed of obtaining phosphoric acid from phosphorus are dangerous, complex, and costly. Mr. Adolph Sommer, of the University of California, has invented a process of doing it with safety and despatch. A glass jar with its bottom removed is placed inverted in a cylindrical vessel. Resting on the orifice of the jar is a common earthenware flower-pot, in which is placed a funnel with its narrow end reaching through the jar into the vessel beneath. A hole is drilled into the bottom of the jar, which is then glued on with a strip of paper. The inverted orifice of the jar is fitted with a perforated caoutchouc stopper. By means of a bent tube water is admitted through the hole in the bottom of the jar into a part of the space between the jar and the flowerpot. The remainder of this space is filled with carbonic acid. Pieces of phosphorus are placed in the funnel, among which is inserted the bulb of a thermometer. The presence of the carbonic acid allows this to be done with safety. The water rises by capillary attraction up the sides of the flower-pot and oxidises the phosphorus, the resulting liquid dropping into the vessel beneath. This operation is performed at a temperature of 35deg. C. The liquid, which is composed of a mixture of phosphoric and phosphorus acid, is heated to 190deg. C., when the phosphorus acid is converted into phosphoric acid and hydrogen phosphide, the latter being given off in bubbles.

IT is usually imagined that cold is pretty fatal to the diseased germs and bacteria, but the real fact, as brought out by many experiments, is, that cold merely arrests development, and does not kill like heat. Professor M'Kendrick cooled fluids containing bacteria 150deg. below the freezing point, and when he allowed the fluids to thaw discovered life in them still. In the same way, even on higher animals, the effect of cold as contrasted with heat is arrestive rather than destructive. Thus frogs have been kept frozen 12deg. below the freezing point for half an hour, and reduced to a condition of apparent death, but on slow thawing they recovered.

A CORRESPONDENT has transmitted to the editor of *L'Union Pharmaceutique* the prospectus of an oyster dealer who, besides dealing in the ordinary bivalves, advertises specialities in medicinal oysters, such as "huîtres ferrugineuses" and "huîtres au goudron." The former are recommended to anaemic persons, and the latter are said to replace with advantage all other means of administering tar, whilst of both it is alleged that analyses made by "distinguished savants" leave no doubt as to their valuable qualities."

IT is becoming common to use cocoa and chocolate as the media for many other substances—either to increase their own special nutritive qualities or to impart to them a new character. Perhaps the strangest addition (writes the *British and Colonial Druggist*), as well as most recent, to increase its nutritive properties and to make it a more strengthening article of diet, is that of Norwegian tar to chocolate. The proportions made use of are about two grammes, fifty centigrammes of the tar per kilogramme of chocolate. Kola-nut chocolate is also in the market. So recently as the 1st December an application was made for letters patent for the "preparation and medicament of chocolate, cocoa, &c., for beverages." We may, therefore, expect to see some new pharmaceutical and medical preparations in this direction in the immediate future. . . . We think we are not incorrect when we prophesy a still more important position for cocoa in the pharmaceutical world than at present obtains.

1885.

SAYS the *Pharmaceutical Journal and Transactions* (London), of 2nd January, in its editorial article bearing the above title:—

"The year that has just closed will always be memorable, from the fact that in the course of it the first decided step towards the establishment of a definite plan of pharmaceutical education was taken by the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society. All previous efforts to achieve this most important object of the Society's formation have been only preparatory and tentative; but the system for the initiation of which the amended bye-laws have been drawn up by the Council, and confirmed by the special general meeting of the Society last May, will, it is hoped, in course of time, become a means of impressing more emphatically upon those who contemplate entering upon a pharmaceutical career the indispensable necessity of systematic scientific education. It would be superfluous here to enter into any disquisition upon the advantages of such education, for they are now fairly acknowledged. It will be sufficient that, from a public point of view, the scientific education of the pharmacist is necessary to enable him to perform his duties with adequate regard for the safety of the community, and that, so far as the more special interests of his class are concerned, it is necessary to secure first the consideration and respect that may reasonably be looked for by its members.

"A perfect form of apprenticeship is, no doubt, the best means of providing for technical training in such a business as that of pharmacy; but the requirements of the business at the present time comprise much more than the mere mechanical proficiency to be obtained from routine work. A knowledge of scientific principles is also requisite, and there is no period when the influence of scientific teaching is likely to be so beneficial as during the period of apprenticeship, when the daily performance of the ordinary operations of pharmacy offers constant opportunity for the illustration of scientific principles."

Alluding to the increase in the examination fees, the writer continues:—"The fact must be borne in mind that the Society is not a material gainer

by the examinations. Looking at this matter from the point of view of the Society's interest, it must also be remembered that, while the class of chemists and druggists was created by statute, and had certain rights and privileges, the Society was charged with the duties of safeguarding the public as to qualification, and of defending those rights. It is, therefore, quite reasonable that the persons obtaining qualification should pay a fee sufficient to cover all expenses of the examinations, and of the proceedings involved in protecting their interests."

The organisation of provincial schools at Birmingham and Newcastle are among the events upon which the readers of the article are especially congratulated.

Concerning the abortive Bill designed to deal with the sale of poisons, which was shelved at the instance of the Pharmaceutical Society, the following pertinent observation is made:—"There was no sufficient recognition of the principle that the adequate education of the dealer in poisons is the one real means of ensuring the protection of the public; there was no provision for enhancing the demand for qualification on that basis, but merely proposals to establish certain rule-of-thumb regulations that might be strictly carried out by incompetent persons without necessarily ensuring the object desired, while, for persons competent to deal with poisons, those regulations were for the most part superfluous."

The facts that Queensland and Quebec have come under the regulation of Pharmacy Acts are enumerated.

It is stated:—"The total number of entries for all the examinations during the year was 2339, or 110 more than in the year 1884."

The income of the Benevolent Fund during the past twelve months (not including income on investments) was £2207 4s. 5d.

The comparative failure of the Brussels Congress is referred to, and a hope is expressed that the want of adequate provision for the interchange of opinion in any other language but French, the absence of a system whereby the official status of an intending representative could be determined, and other defects, may be remedied on future similar occasions.

The issue of a revised edition of the "National Pharmacopœia"—eighteen years having elapsed since the previous publication—is favourably commented upon, although it is complained that the errors of the work indicate that an alteration is required in the constitution of the board of revisers. Says our contemporary:—"The unquestioned advantages of professional learning require to be supplemented by technical skill and practical familiarity with the subject matter of a pharmacopœia."

The quotations from the article referred to, *apropos* of the proceedings of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, and of the objects which are sought to be attained, are so pertinent to the position and aspirations of Australasian pharmacists that we make no apology for rehearsing them so fully. The interests of pharmacists are identical all the world over; and this journal, in advocating the establishment of a general scientific training, as being essential to the public safety and to the upraising of the social status of pharmacists throughout the colonies, is only in accord with the teachings of the leaders of enlightened professional opinion in the head-centres of science.

Let us hope that the Australasian record of 1886 will show that some, at least, of the objects which colonial pharmacists so earnestly desire have been achieved; and that the federation of Australasian pharmacists under the one standard of examination, having a system of apprenticeship and a law common to all, and, thereout, the establishment of reciprocity between the several colonies, will be in a fair way towards realisation.

SOME FAMOUS ALCHEMISTS.

RAYMOND LULLY is a famous name in the history of alchemy. He is the first who mentions spirit-of-wine, terming it *aqua vita ardens* and *argentum virum vegetabile*. He employed mercury in medicine, and is said to have visited England, and to have made gold and silver for the King.

Basil Valentine is another great name in the science. He wrote in the fifteenth century. He was of opinion that the metals are compounds of salt, sulphur, and mercury. The philosopher's stone he held to be composed of the same ingredients. He affirmed that there existed a great similarity between the mode of purifying gold and curing the diseases of men, and that antimony was best for both.

There is an order relating to alchemy of Edward III., made in 1329, which goes as follows:—"Know, all men, that we have been assured that John, of Rous, and Master William, of Dalby, know how to make silver by the art of alchemy; that they have made it in former times, and still continue to make it; and, considering that these men, by their art, and by making the precious metals, may be profitable to us and to our kingdom, we have commanded our well-beloved Thomas Carey to apprehend the aforesaid John and William, wherever they can be found, within liberties or without, and bring them to us, together with all the instruments of their art, under safe and sure custody."

Henry VI. prevailed upon Parliament to grant protection to the "three famous men, John Fauceby, John Kirkeby, and John Rayney," which was affirmed 31st May, 1456. The object of the researches of these philosophers was described to be "at certain, much precious medicine, called by some the mother and queen of medicines; by some the inestimable glory; by others the philosopher's stone; by others the elixir of life; which cures all curable diseases with ease, prolongs human life in perfect health and vigour of faculty to its utmost term, heals all healable wounds, is the most sovereign antidote against all poisons, and is capable of preserving to us and to our kingdom other great advantages, such as the transmutation of other metals into real and fine silver and gold."

It does not seem to be known whether "our beloved Thomas Carey" succeeded in catching the first two philosophers, nor whether the last three succeeded in their expectations; but the transactions show that our ancestors were fully alive to the profit of encouraging scientific research.

Fifty years prior to the date of the above-mentioned patent, Parliament had prohibited the manufacture of gold and silver, as possibly tending to make a subject more powerful than the King.

One of the most extraordinary names in the history of alchemy is that of Theophrastus Bombast von Hohenheim; better known by the name he gave himself, Paracelsus, in the sixteenth century. This personage was a strange mixture of quack scientific man and religious mystic. He is credited with bringing about a revolution in the study and practice of medicine. Before this time the study of medicine consisted in little besides getting up the works of all Arabic physicians like Avicenna and Rhazez, instead of going to Nature herself.

Paracelsus was the first to set the contrary example. He did good service in putting the medical profession on the track of cleanly and effective drugs. In his time, and even for long after, the medical efficacy of a drug seems to have been calculated to be in proportion to its filthiness. The nastier the dose the more efficacious it was supposed to be. A favourite medicine in the Middle Ages was what was called "Mummy;" that is, Egyptian mummies ground to powder. It has been calculated that tons of this medicament, made of the

corpses of ancient Egyptians, were swallowed by patients. Porta, in his books on natural magic, recommends gargling with the blood of a hedgehog as a cure for hoarseness. Mummy and hedgehog's-blood are cleanly in comparison with some remedies which might be cited.—*All the Year Round.*

CORRECTIONS IN THE "PHARMACOPÆIA."

THE following list of corrections has been issued by the publishers of the Pharmacopœia :—

CORRECTIONS.

Page 109, line 35, read As purified by solvents it is a

- | | | | |
|---|------|------|---|
| „ | 149, | „ | 28, for fourteen read thirteen |
| „ | 154, | „ | last, „ drachms „ fluid drachms |
| „ | 164, | „ | 11, „ $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 „ $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 |
| „ | 176, | „ | 35, „ eight „ seven and a half |
| „ | 211, | „ | 14, „ Root „ Rhizome |
| „ | 213, | „ | 21, „ CH_3I „ CHI_3 |
| „ | 230, | „ | 27, „ $17\frac{1}{2}$ „ $15\frac{1}{2}$ |
| „ | 232, | „ | 3, „ one pint „ 24 fl. ozs. |
| „ | 241, | „ | 17, „ 1.407 „ 1.047 |
| „ | 249, | „ | 28-29, „ insoluble „ soluble |
| „ | 379, | „ | 27, „ 0.886 „ 0.896 |
| „ | 404, | „ | 19, „ to „ in |
| „ | 416, | „ | 10, „ Root „ Rhizome |
| „ | „ | 34 } | |
| „ | 433, | „ | 26 } „ proof „ rectified |
| „ | 450, | „ | 18, „ 19 „ 191 |
| „ | 460, | „ | last, „ 8, „ 7 |
| „ | 190, | „ | 6, add Glycerine of Alum |
| „ | 164, | „ | 16, omit in powder |

To Cross References.

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| ,, | 4, line 10, add | Linimentum Terebinthinæ Aceticum |
| ,, | 34, „ 8, „ | Unguentum Hydrargyri |
| ,, | 57, „ 17, „ | Liquor Atropinæ Sulphatis |
| ,, | 228, „ 16, „ | Tinctura Quininæ Ammoniata |
| ,, | 278, „ 6, „ | Trochisci Acidi Benzoici |
| „ | 316, „ 24, „ | Emplastrum Plumbi Iodidi |
| „ | „ „ 26, „ | Glycerinum Plumbi Subacetatis |
| „ | 44, „ 22, omit | Liquor Ammonii Citratis Fortior |
| „ | 115, „ 17, „ | Acidum Sulphuricum Aromaticum |
| „ | 314, „ 27, „ | Glycerini |
| „ | 405, „ 13, for | Liquidum read Liquidum (dried) |
| „ | 31, „ 16 } | 1 read $1\frac{1}{2}$ fluid ounce |
| „ | 73, „ 13 } | „ |
| „ | 49, „ 3, „ 11 | ,, 10 |
| „ | 80, „ 25, „ 6 | ,, 8 |
| „ | „ „ 26, „ 5 | ,, 4 |
| „ | 92, „ 21 } | 22 „ 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| „ | „ „ 22 } | „ |
| „ | 115, „ 24, „ 11 | ,, 12 |
| „ | 202, „ 30, „ 8 | ,, 10 |
| „ | 315, „ 20, „ 9 | ,, 10 |
| „ | 331, „ 13, „ 4 | ,, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| „ | 355, „ last, | 8 „ 16 |

Legal and Magisterial.

POISONING CASES.

A YOUNG woman, named Florence Voss, died in the Launceston General Hospital recently after a most painful illness. It appears that the girl was engaged to be married. She was a stout, rosy-looking girl, but, not being quite satisfied with her complexion, she, according to her own statement, ate the heads off five boxes of lucifer matches, apparently in ignorance of the poisonous nature of phosphorus. She was taken ill, and was conveyed to the hospital, where she lingered in agony until death released her from her sufferings. Dr. Thompson, who made a *post-mortem* examination, deposed that death resulted from eating phosphorus.

A magisterial inquiry upon the death of Richard Goatley, of Wallaloo, near Stawell, has resulted in the committal for trial of Dr. Tremearne on a charge of manslaughter. We gave a full report of the coroner's inquest upon this case in last month's issue, by which it appeared that the deceased had died through the administration of a dose of morphia, which had been given in mistake for salicylate of soda. The trial takes place on the 22nd inst.

Correspondence.

UNQUALIFIED DISPENSERS.

To the Editor of the Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.

SIR,—Since my last several letters have appeared in Tasmanian papers upon this very important subject, and there have been found to be not less than ten or a dozen unqualified men in charge of various pharmacies throughout the colony. Such a state of things has existed far too long, and the time has now come when these irregularities must be stopped. The Medical Board has been informed of the names of the delinquents, and have served each one with a notice, which will be strictly enforced.

I am sure the Examination is not so severe as to frighten them from trying, but, judging from the few who attempt it, there must be some reason for remaining unqualified. One applicant who was recently examined was relegated to his studies for a further period of twelve months for exhibiting most deplorable ignorance.—Yours, &c.,

VASELINE.

Hobart, 7th March, 1886.

Personalities.

MR. THOMAS LAKEMAN left Sydney for Auckland and the other N.Z. ports on the 25th ult.

A NEW pharmacy has been opened at Lancefield by Mr. E. P. Plummer, who is a son of the genial and well-known Mr. Edwin Plummer.

THE business of Mr. Maximillian Brown, at St. Arnaud, has changed hands, Mr. Thos. Leary, late of Dunedin, N.Z., being the purchaser.

THE following order was presented to a pharmacist in Portland:—"Please give the bearer 6d. of Ip-you-pip-you-cake-youanna wine."

THE death of Mr. Joe Sullivan is announced. Mr. Sullivan was an old colonist, well known in connection with a disinfectant prepared by him, and of which he was the proprietor.

MR. JOHN HOLDSWORTH, of Sandhurst, left for England on the 13th inst., in the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamer *Goa*. Mr. Holdsworth proposes being absent about nine months.

MR. HERBERT ROCKE, of Messrs. Rocke, Tompsitt and Co., left for England in the *Coromandel* on the 25th ult. We understand Mr. Rocke goes home to manage for a time the London branch of their business.

WE have received from Messrs. Parke, Davis and Co. the following working bulletins:—Syrup trifolium compound in the treatment of syphilis, cascara compound pellets, salicylic acid from oil of wintergreen.

MR. THOMAS SHANASAY, formerly resident dispenser at the Mount Gambier Hospital, South Australia, has purchased, through Messrs. Felton, Grimwade and Co., the business of Mr. H. W. Potts, at Chiltern.

MR. ROBERT NICHOLLS (late of Clarendon-street, South Melbourne), after a twelvemonths' trip to England, has returned to Victoria. Mr. Nicholls states that, in all his travels, he has seen no place where pharmacists are so well off as in this colony.

MR. R. H. ROE, the representative of Messrs. Frederick Stearns and Co., Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A., has proceeded to New South Wales, after a three months' sojourn in Victoria. Mr. Roe speaks in the highest terms of the reception he and his wares have met with in this colony, and informs us that the business done by him far exceeds his expectations. We wish him the same good luck in New South Wales.

PRIOR to his departure from Chiltern Mr. W. H. Potts, whom we mentioned in our last issue as having recently purchased the business of Mr E. G. Hooper, Bourke-street, Melbourne, was entertained at dinner, and was the recipient of a handsome illuminated address, of which the following is a copy:—“Dear Sir,—Although your residence in Chiltern has been but of short duration, your fellow-townsmen feel they cannot allow you to depart from them without expressing their high appreciation of your character as a man and a citizen. From your arrival amongst us you entered most heartily into every matter of public moment, and while in doing so you did not in the slightest neglect your business, which, owing to its particular nature, was a public boon. In a city like Melbourne you will not only have greater scope for exercising your enterprise and industry, thereby, we hope, benefiting yourself, but you will also have a wider field wherein you will be enabled, by your skill and ability, to materially assist in relieving the sufferings of the ever-present afflicted. Your genial disposition and uniformly courteous manner, combined with the energy displayed in everything you have undertaken to forward, have won the esteem of all with whom you have been publicly or privately associated. While we regret your early departure from this township, where you have so fully established yourself in our affections, yet we most heartily wish you and your good wife God-speed, good health, long life, and prosperity wherever you may be.—Signed on behalf of the subscribers by J. Cock, J.P., Dr. F. Haley, J. Strickland, J.P., Rev. J. Moorhouse, B. J. Bartley, J.P., R. H. Carlington.”

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

MARRIAGE.

FITZ-GERALD—O'KANE.—On the 20th February, at St. Mary's Church, Hotham, by the Rev. Dean England, Frank P. Fitz-Gerald, of Newmarket, to Annie O'Kane, of Hotham.

DEATH.

BLOGG.—On the 27th February, at Aston Lodge, Cromwell-road, Hawksburn, Garnet, the youngest son of John K. and Annie M. Blogg, aged seven months.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF
AUSTRALASIA.
(With which is Incorporated the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria.)

Members are respectfully informed that their Subscriptions for the Current Year are NOW DUE. Exchange should be added to all country cheques.

HARRY SHILLINGLAW,
Secretary.

15th January, 1886.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF
AUSTRALASIA.

In accordance with the provisions of the 53rd Section of the Articles of Association, the following are the names of the Candidates who have been nominated for the four vacant seats in the Council:—

BOWEN, WILLIAM, Melbourne.
DALTON, STEPHEN MICHAEL, Prahran.
FRANCIS, RAWSON PARKE, South Melbourne.
JONES, JOHN CLARKE, Richmond.
NELSON, WILLIAM YOUNG, Windsor.
TOMPSITT, HENRY THOMAS, Hawthorn.

HARRY SHILLINGLAW,
Secretary.

The election takes place on the 10th March, 1886.

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MR. H. T. TOMPSITT desires to thank those Gentlemen who voted for him at the recent Election for the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia.

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THE AUSTRALASIAN

Journal of Pharmacy.

No. 4.]

APRIL, 1886.

[VOL. I.

Original and Selected Articles.

DESCRIPTION OF TWO UNRECORDED LEGUMINOUS TREES FROM NEW GUINEA;

BY BARON FERD. VON MUELLER, K.C.M.G., M. & PH.D., F.R.S., F.C.S. &c.

Cynometra minutiflora.—Branchlets thin, subtle-hairy; leaves consisting generally of two pair of leaflets, short-stalked or almost sessile, the petiole and rachis minutely hairy; leaflets comparatively small, chartaceous, sessile, oblique ovate-lanceolar, gradually protracted into a short-bilobed summit, hardly paler beneath, glabrous on both sides; fascicles of flowers almost capitate, emanating often from near the base of the petiole; peduncle obliterated; bracts minute, roundish; pedicels very short, subtle-downy; calyces minute, their segments almost ovate, glabrous; stamens ten, about twice as long as the calyx-segments; anthers roundish; ovary short-stipitate, as well as the style glabrous; stigma not dilated; fruit comparatively small, almost semiorbicircular-ovate, oblique, short-stipitate, slightly rough, rather turgid, indehiscent, one-seeded.

In the south-eastern part of New Guinea; Rev. J. Chalmers. Leaflets of the lower pair usually only about half as long as those of the upper, the latter 1— $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and much more narrowed towards the summit. Fascicles of flowers reminding of little flowerheads of Acacias; segments of the calyx not fully $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long. Petals obliterated, unless fugacious, none seen in any of the advanced flowers available. Style thicker than the filaments. Fruit resembling that of some Grevilleas, though not bivalvular, attaining a length only of $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch; pericarp rather thick. Seed turgid. The smallness of the leaves, the minuteness of the flowers and the smoothness of the ovary separate this species from all others, except *C. Travancorica*, the flowers of which are also exceedingly small; but that species has the leaflets in single pairs and of large size, while the ovary is downy and the fruit flat. Should further observations confirm the absence of petals in this *Cynometra*, then a still closer approach to the genera *Hardwickia*, *Prioria*, *Copaifera*, *Crudia* and *Detarium* would be indicated. Some South-American species of *Cynometra* yield a kind of Capal.

Pterocarpus Papuanus.—Branchlets almost glabrous; leaflets often 5-7, thinly chartaceous, scattered, soon glabrous, ovate or roundish-ovate, protracted into a narrow acumen; racemes axillary, simple or but little branched; pedicels about as long as the calyx during anthesis; calyces beset with subtle appressed hair outside, only short-protracted at the base; teeth somewhat deltoid, the lower smaller and more acute; petals glabrous, the upper and the lateral crisped, the two lower the shortest; tube of stamens cleft into halves; ovary silky-hairy; style almost glabrous; pod on a stipe of hardly the length of the calyx, thinly silky, all around expanded into a broad membrane, with a small sinus in front not far above the base of the fruit, the anterior portion of the membranous expansion also above its middle forming a short protruding angle.

At Maiva and Kerepuna in New Guinea; Edelfelt. A tall tree, with reddish wood, according to the collector's notes. Specimens obtained through Th. Gulliver, Esq. I should have referred the Papuan species to *P. Indicus*, had it not been for the marked difference in the fruit, the stipes of which is still shorter than in *P. marsupium*. Ripe seeds of the Papuan plant were not available for comparison. Miquel and Baker describe the fruit of *P. Indicus* silky; Kurz found it glabrous already in a young state. *P. macrocarpus* is evidently also closely akin to *P. Papuanus*; but the leaflets are less broad and stiffer, nor can the calyces be called rusty-velvety. But like *P. Indicus* and *P. macrocarpus* also the Papuan tree is sure to yield Kino, perhaps as good as that of *P. marsupium* and *P. erinaceus*; nor can there be doubt, that *P. Papuanus* will furnish dye-wood somewhat similar to that of *P. santalinus*; thus two new articles of export are likely to be supplied by the Papuan tree, now for the first time brought under notice. The specimens from Kerepuna are only flower-bearing, those from Maiva only fruit-bearing; but I regard them as belonging to one species.

IPECACUANHA WINE.

A Paper read by C. R. BLACKETT at a Meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia.

THE new process for the preparation of ipecacuanha wine in the British Pharmacopœia has evoked a considerable amount of discussion and some difference of opinion.

It may be of interest for us to examine this new method, and a few practical observations may not be unacceptable. As ipecacuanha is a valuable medicine, and much prescribed, it is important that we should have all its preparations in the most efficient state.

The active principle of ipecacuanha root—*Cephaelis ipecacuanha* belonging to the natural order Rubiaceæ, the same family which gives us the quinine barks—is the alkaloid emetina, and occurs in the root in combination with ipecacuanhic acid. It also forms salts with other acids. "The nitrate is peculiarly insoluble in water," according to Lefort.

Medicinal wines are really tinctures, but contain less alcohol. Sherry wine, which is ordered in the B. Ph., contains from 17 to 20 per cent. of rectified spirit. It also contains bitartrate of potash and tannin. It has long been known that free acid in wines is an advantage in the preparation of ipecacuanha wine, as the ipecacuanate of emetina is precipitated in long kept wine if no free acid is present, and it suggests itself that the best dry, high-priced sherries are really not so suitable for this preparation as an acid and common wine. Procter says that "the addition of three or four grains of tartaric acid per ounce is an advantage in preventing this deposit. Tartaric acid is not exempt from decomposition when kept in solution in water, and it is not unlikely that acetic or hydrochloric acid would be more advantageous." In the United States Pharmacopœia tartaric acid is used in the preparation of extract of aconite for the same reason, and its application was suggested by Duquesnel. The American Pharmacopœia orders the vinum to be prepared from the fluid extract, which is prepared by first moistening the powdered ipecacuanha with alcohol, and it is then packed firmly in a percolator, and then exhausted with more alcohol; the spirit is distilled off until the residue measures a definite quantity (50 c.c.), 100 c.c. of water is added, and it is evaporated to 75 c.c., cooled and filtered. The precipitate is washed until tasteless, and again evaporated to 50 c.c., cooled, and alcohol added to make 100 c.c., so that the liquor represents its own weight of ipecacuanha root.

Before preparing the wine it is as well to carefully examine the root to see if it is genuine *Cephælis ipecacuanha*. The meditullium of *Carthegenæ* root is distinctly radiated, of larger size and less annulated, smooth, and non-annulated in the larger size. The amount of emetina is about 1 per cent. in good ordinary root. Ipecacuanhic acid, with which it is combined, is a glucoside allied to kinic and coffetannic acids. There are several species of ipecacuanha—the black psychotris emetica, smooth, large, and striated, a native of New Grenada, small striated from *Richardsonia scabra*. These are all very inferior, and may be easily distinguished by their non-annulated appearance.

The method of the B.P. for the preparation of the wine is that which was proposed by Carteighe some years ago. It is a question whether a weak tincture would not be better than the wine. For if the wine is made in the old way, and with strong sherry containing much tannin, the deposit will go as long as any alkaloid remains; and it will be found that old long-made wine will give very poor indications of the presence of emetina on the application of the usual tests. The Pharmacopœia orders the root to be coarsely powdered. It is not necessary to powder the central meditullium, as it contains little or no emetina. The powder must be well macerated with the acetic acid, and then tightly packed in a cylindrical percolator of the proper proportions to the quantity operated on. The last fluid which comes through is almost colourless and tasteless, and gives no reactions for emetina. The evaporation over the water bath should take place in a thin porcelain dish, and is ordered to be carried to dryness. This takes some time, but it is doubtful whether it is necessary to evaporate to a dry extract. The object, of course, is to get rid of as much of the free acetic acid as possible, the compilers of the Pharmacopœia taking, doubtless, into consideration the fact that ipecacuanha wine is frequently prescribed with carbonate of ammonia, soda, &c. But I think that if the evaporation is continued until no odour of acetic acid is perceptible it would be sufficient, and the small amount of free acid remaining would be little likely to cause any appreciable trouble in dispensing, as the amount of wine prescribed is generally small in proportion to the alkaline carbonates when prescribed with them, and especially as sherry wine is of variable acidity; and, moreover, emetina is one of the alkaloids which does not well bear the long continued application of heat. Of course, we must faithfully follow our guide, the Pharmacopœia, as it is dangerous to admit "the right of private judgment" in official pharmacy. Some critics have complained that the process of percolation is tedious and difficult. I have not found it so. We may, I think, rest assured that this change of process is an improvement, based as it is upon correct scientific knowledge and pharmaceutical experience. I have observed that this wine when first prepared does not possess the peculiar and characteristic odour of that which is made in accordance with the old method by simple maceration, but it is curious that this odour does gradually develop in the wine prepared by the new mode, but not, I think, to the full extent we we have been accustomed to.

For those who wish to gain more information upon ipecacuanha I will refer them to the admirable work of Bentley and Trimen on Medicinal Plants, Vol. II., page 145.

MR. R. F. FRISWELL, in a paper read before the Chemical Society, London, says that the results of his personal experience with toughened glass, during a period of eleven months, has caused him to regard that substance when formed into laboratory utensils as a complete failure.

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PHARMACY A LEARNED PROFESSION.

A CURIOUS uncertainty appears to exist as to the position of the pharmacist in society. Generally pharmacy is styled an art, but not uncommonly we find its practitioners regarded merely as shopkeepers. We propose, however, to show that the claim to rank pharmacology with the learned professions is based upon a substantial foundation. The word "profession," *per se*, carries little significance, since it is not easy to determine upon the exact line of demarcation which distinguishes it from "trade" or "handicraft." But it is essential to the rightful assumption of "learned profession" that its practitioners should require an educational training to qualify them for engaging in it, and that the successful performance of the duties relating thereto should not be chiefly dependent upon the possession of mechanical skill. While the establishment of the pharmacist is not infrequently styled a drug store—and it may be conceded that the retailing parcels of proprietary medicines or toilet requisites makes small demand upon the mental powers—yet it must also be remembered that these duties are of a very insignificant character when compared with the pharmacist's more serious business, to which they are merely accessory; and, as has been justly remarked, "his commerce is of such a nature as to exact the most scrupulous probity." Nor is the pharmacist only a machine for translating a prescription and giving effect to a doctor's instructions. He is much more than this. Of course, we have nothing to urge on behalf of the mere drug-vendor, or other person who may be permitted by the neglectful Legislature of the country in which he is located to assume the title "pharmaceutical chemist" without due qualification. But the person authorised by educational and scientific training to assume that appellation is responsible for the quality of the drugs with which he deals. He should be acquainted with the nature of drugs, whether vegetable, animal, or mineral, and be informed as to how they are affected by combination or decomposition. It seems not too much to say that he is the prescriber of half the medicines which are prepared by him. And, furthermore, inasmuch as he is largely brought into contact with members of the gentler sex, it is essential that he should be of gentlemanly address. Hence, that there should exist any doubt upon the point discussed, pharmacists have only themselves to blame. Where practitioners are so heedless of their social position as to remain aloof from the movement to raise the educational standard, and make it uniform throughout the colonies—which the *Australasian*

Journal of Pharmacy has so persistently advocated—they cannot complain that their status is regarded with suspicion. That pharmacology is entitled to rank with the learned professions is indisputable—but only where the law of the land demands of its practitioners an educational and scientific training. Surely, then, there should be small need to urge upon them the necessity of being up and doing in the promotion of that elevation and uniformity of qualification which nothing but co-operation and energetic action can secure, when its realisation promises so fruitful a reward as the uplifting of the art into a position beyond question, and at once and for all time securing for it that unquestionable hall-mark of public esteem—the general admission of its claim to be classed among the learned professions.

THE INTERCOLONIAL PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

By way of preface to a sketch of the proposed proceedings of the Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference of October next, it is thought appropriate to give a *résumé* of what had previously been done to bring about a meeting of delegates from the sister colonies, such as is now imminent, and which has long been urgently desired by all enlightened pharmacists.

The proposal to hold such a Conference first emanated from the Victorian Pharmacy Board in February, 1883. In reply to Mr. A. J. Watt, of the Pharmacy Board of New South Wales, who had come to Melbourne in reference to the interchange of certificates of registration, the Victorian president responded that the only point at issue was the educational standard. And he made the suggestion that good results to Australasian pharmacy might be expected if a Conference of all the boards, including New Zealand, could be brought about. Mr. Watt acquiesced in this view, and stated that he was authorised to consent to such a Conference on the part of New South Wales. Upon this the secretary of the Victorian society (Mr. H. Shillinglaw) at once put himself in communication with the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales in advocacy of the proposal stating that he had written to representative pharmacists at Wellington, Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, Brisbane, and Hobart, and requesting an exposition of the views of the society addressed as to how the proposed Conference should be carried out. This produced a prompt reply from New South Wales, stating that the proposition had “the heartiest approval of all of us, feeling very sanguine that great and permanent good to all concerned must inevitably be the result.” The request for information as to the platform to be adopted at the Conference, however, was not complied with, and a further communication from the Victorian Pharmaceutical Society was answered by the president of the New South Wales Society:—“The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales, be assured, are quite in accord with your society as to the advisableness of uniformity of action being decided upon by the whole of the colonies in Australasia touching the educational curriculum, in order that it may be assimilated to that of the kindred society of Great Britain, as well as in other matters affecting the pharmacist generally; but our council, at the same time, is of opinion that it would be wise to defer holding the Conference alluded to by you—say for twelve months—in order that, in the interim, time may be afforded to our own and the other societies not yet by law established to obtain Acts by and through which a legal status will be established.” The Victorian body, however, despatched letters to the various societies of the colonies recommending the question of the Conference to their earnest and favourable consideration. And the communication from the New South Wales society was replied to, urging that the Conference should be held before any of the pro-

posed amendments in the Pharmacy Acts became law. Wrote the Victorian secretary :—"At the present time (15th May, 1883) the colonies of New Zealand, Queensland, and South Australia are all asking for fresh legislation in pharmacy, and these colonies have expressed their willingness to submit to the Conference the proposed alterations, with a view to make their respective Acts as uniform as possible." It was stated that intimation had been received from Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington, Auckland, Brisbane, Adelaide, Hobart, and Launceston, expressing a desire and intention of being represented at the Conference; and the New South Wales society was requested to reconsider its previously expressed opinion in favour of a postponement, and to fix a date during the year at which the delegates might meet, either in Sydney or elsewhere. The reply to this was :—"I have to inform you that the decision arrived at is simply the same as before, viz., that it would be better, in the opinion of the Pharmaceutical Council of New South Wales, to defer holding the said proposed Conference until next year—say for twelve months from date at least."

In consequence of the Sydney society adhering to this view, it was considered politic to allow the matter to remain in abeyance for the nonce. But in May, 1884, the hon. secretary of the Victorian body again addressed the New South Wales society, pointing out that the prescribed twelve months had elapsed, and again urging the necessity for a Conference of Australasian pharmacists. A favourable reply to this was not received until May, 1885, when it was intimated that the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales had decided that a Conference should be held at Sydney on 16th and 17th September, 1885, and requesting to be apprised of the subjects which the Victorian council proposed for discussion. The Victorian society answered that, in the opinion of its council, the most important question for settlement was the assimilation of the standard of teaching and examination throughout the colonies, and requesting some information as to whether and what platform the Sydney body had agreed upon for submission to the Conference. This salient point could not be satisfactorily agreed upon, and, after a wearying correspondence, the proposal was again shelved.

Now, however, after a lapse of two years, there is every prospect of the Conference being an accomplished fact; and that the best results may eventuate from it to both pharmacists and pharmacy throughout the colonies of the Australasian group well-wishers of the profession are most hopeful, since there is every reason for the expectation that the gathering will be a large and representative one. The dates appointed are the 27th, 28th, and 29th of October next, the delegates meeting at the College of Pharmacy, Melbourne. The following is an outline of the principal topics which will be submitted to the societies throughout the Australasian colonies for their suggestions and revision before the final programme of the Conference is agreed on :—

1. That a uniform system of pharmaceutical education throughout Australasia and New Zealand is desirable.
 - (a). Preliminary Examination.
 - (b). Apprenticeship, — years.
 - (c). Course of Study.
 - (d). Examinations to embrace—
 1. Materia Medica.
 2. Botany.
 3. Chemistry and Practical Chemistry.
 4. Practical Pharmacy.
2. Uniformity of legislation on pharmacy throughout all the colonies.
3. The sale and custody of poisons.
4. Uniformity of regulations as to the sale and custody of poisons by pharmaceutical chemists and holders of licenses to sell poisons.

A SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST ENGLISH DISPENSERS.

SOME unknown friend has forwarded to the editor of this journal a copy of the London *Morning Post* of 25th February, drawing his attention to an article dealing with the results of a so-called "investigation" into the dispensing of medicines lately undertaken by Dr. Seaton, the medical officer of health and public analyst for the parish of Chelsea. Dr. Seaton, it appears, caused fifty prescriptions to be made up by chemists and druggists, and then tested their accuracy by analysing the medicines so compounded. According to the *Morning Post* more than one-third of the number showed an error of over 10 per cent. in the ingredients employed. In nine cases, or nearly one-fifth of the whole, the error exceeded 20 per cent. In one instance the medicine contained less than a quarter of the drug prescribed; in another less than one-half; in others, 30, 40, and 50 per cent. too much. An alarming report of this nature afforded the daily Press too tempting an opportunity for "strong writing" to be lost, and the *Morning Post*, for one, makes it the text of a "thrilling" article, in which, instance, among other examples, the "death of two dogs, to whom medicine bought as jalap had been administered, and an analysis showed that two-thirds of the so-called jalap consisted of strychnine," it expatiates on the evils to which the public are liable, not only from the alleged carelessness of dispensers, but also from the unreliable quality of the drugs sold. That adulterated drugs do sometimes get upon the market cannot be denied, and that mistakes are sometimes committed by dispensers must also be admitted; and the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy* cannot too strongly impress upon Australian chemists the necessity, not only of extreme carefulness in compounding prescriptions, but also of qualifying themselves to test analytically the quality of their drugs. Whether our English *confrères* have given any just cause for the present attack upon them is quite another question. Without the necessary data at our command we do not feel justified in expressing a personal opinion; and in this respect our English contemporaries are also placed at a disadvantage. The *Pharmaceutical Journal*, for instance, writes:—"To the report is appended an imposing-looking table of results, in which percentages of error ranging from 10 to 85 per cent. are indicated, but, as no account is given of the methods adopted for the analytical determination of the substances, it is impossible to criticise the chemistry of the report." The daily Press seem to have accepted Dr. Seaton's results with the most implicit confidence, but it would be interesting to dispensers to be informed, not only as to the methods employed by the self-constituted investigator, but also as to the precautions taken by him to preserve the medicines in the condition in which they were supplied by the dispensers. Possibly we may yet hear something more definite on these points, until which time we reserve further comment. In the meantime, it may not be without interest to note that, of the fifty prescriptions, thirty were dispensed at chemists' shops, and among these there were only two cases of error that were considered serious, viz., pills, consisting of 12 grains hydrarg. c. cret. and 12 grains of ext. of hyoscyamus, which are represented as having had in one case 26 per cent. too much of the former and in the other 29 per cent. too little. Among fourteen made up at "Stores" there were three cases of serious error; in four made up by "drug companies" there were three cases of error; while—a somewhat remarkable fact—out of two made up by "doctors' shops," one showed a very gross error. However the case may stand with the chemists, it would appear from this, if any reliance is to be placed upon Dr. Seaton's report, that the public are at least safer in their hands than they would be if the old system were revived under which the doctor made up his own prescriptions.

PHARMACY IN COUNTRY AND TOWN.

By "PILA."

AFTER years of pestle and mortar work in the old country, it has been my good fortune to visit Victoria—not only the city of Melbourne, but many country towns and remote settlements. I am not, after the manner of travellers in general, going to pester you, Mr. Editor, with a cut and dried opinion about this country and the "wonderful future that lies before it," nor will I hazard an estimate of the probable population when the year 2000 is reached. But wherever I have gone I have always had the curiosity to interview the local man, or men, in order to find out if the condition of the pharmacist in general at this side of the world is better or worse than in England.

Experience No. 1 was obtained in a town pleasantly situated, bearing a somewhat scriptural name, if my memory serves me. Feeling a little feverish the morning after my arrival, I steered for the main street, on the look out for the "leading chemist." "Sir, can you give me a box of your best Seidlitz powders?" I queried. The man of medicine gave me a reproachful look for disturbing him whilst in the enjoyment of his Melbourne paper, folded it, placed it within easy reach, and then retired behind his counter. Drawers were pulled out, cases opened, but not a Seidlitz was forthcoming. Then came the cool information, "I find I am out of Seidlitz powders, but I can recommend Eno's fruit salt; it's a very good thing indeed!" "But, I remonstrated, "you charge 4s. 6d. for Eno, and I can get a box of Seidlitz for 1s. 6d." No Seidlitz was to be had, however, so it was Eno or nothing.

Experience No. 2 was with a man of another stamp, and in a much smaller town. This gentleman indulged a decided antipathy to the patent medicine trade. He was a little bright-eyed man, with a decided manner, short and abrupt, so, when I asked for a small box of "Highcockalorum's pills," he at once put in a protest. To this I listened with patience, more especially as it bore a family likeness to the arguments I had been in the habit of using when trying to dispose of my own infallible antibilious preparation instead of the aforesaid Highcockalorum's. When he had finished I replied that, personally, I had the greatest confidence in his pharmaceutical skill, but that in this particular instance I was only executing a commission for a member of my family who, from constant perusal of advertisements under the heading "Medical," had come to the conclusion that the pill in question was a panacea for all present and future ills, and that no chemist (I concealed my own connection with drugs), apothecary, or doctor was a "circumstance" upon the advertiser of them.

With a smile of pity for allowing myself to be so meanly "bossed," he handed over the pills, charging me a price that left him as good a profit as if he had sold me his own compound. Whilst waiting in this pharmacy, the value of which—lock, stock, and barrel—did not exceed £100, a selector rode up to consult the chemist and obtain some medicine for his sick wife, no doctor being accessible under a nine-mile ride. A mixture and liniment were handed over the miniature counter in a trice, and 9s. received in exchange, which I, with a knowledge of the amount of work expected in the old country for that sum, thought extremely good.

After this we chatted, and the little fellow told me his expenses were small, profits good, but the returns and business very irregular. Of course the place was supremely dull, but, as he could afford to keep a good horse, his recreation was to ride about and visit the neighbouring selectors, locking up the establishment meanwhile. Better this, I thought, than the weary round of drudgery gone through by many a poor pill-maker at home.

"But," he added, with a sort of sigh, "there is no mental recreation, and sometimes I wish to look at a crowd, and rub shoulders with other men and minds."

Against that I urged, "You have liberty, and can work how and when you please, and still provide for a rainy day."

Everywhere I noticed the same tendency to leave the monotonous bush for the city, and yet not one of the many I met could give me any more information about plant and animal life in the forest than the most ignorant "cockatoo" farmer. The novelty and beauty of the Australian woods excited no curiosity amongst my brother chemists, and yet it is evident a little patient investigation—easily undertaken on the spot—would be prolific of enjoyment, and could be turned to substantial profit.

(*To be continued.*)

Victoria.

PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA.

THE monthly meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria was held at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, Melbourne, on Wednesday, the 14th April, 1886.

Present—Messrs. Brind, Francis, Owen, Strutt, and Tompsitt.

In the absence of the president, Mr. Brind was voted to the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION.

The application of Mr. J. W. Hobbs, of Sydney, was considered, and it was resolved that, upon Mr. Hobbs becoming resident in Victoria, the registration could be completed. The case of Mr. R. Richardson, of Launceston, was also dealt with in a similar manner.

NAME RESTORED TO THE PHARMACEUTICAL REGISTER.

Joseph Benjamin Barker, Violet Town.

REGISTRATION OF APPRENTICES' INDENTURES.

George Joseph Wells, apprenticed to Mr. J. Wells, Kyneton.

Frederick G. Corinaldi, apprenticed to Mr. H. A. Corinaldi, Prahran.

Herbert Mummery, apprenticed to Mr. J. B. Mummery, Carlton.

Thomas A. Moore, apprenticed to G. H. Prout, Hotham.

SALE AND USE OF POISONS ACT.

A certificate was granted to Mr. H. Edwards, Lubeck.

ADDITIONAL ARTICLES TO BE PROCLAIMED POISONS.

Some discussion took place as to certain additions to the Poisons Schedule, and the list will be finally revised for the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE, &c.

An application from the widow of the late Mr. F. A. Dunn, of Hawthorn, for permission to carry on the business was granted. From the Colonial Secretary, Perth, Western Australia, forwarding copy of the Medical Ordinance

and Sale of Poisons Act. From the Adelaide University, forwarding copy of the Calendar for 1886. A number of confidential police reports were also dealt with.

NAME ERASED FROM THE PHARMACEUTICAL REGISTER OF VICTORIA.

Frederick J. L. Pownall, deceased.

Financial and general business brought the meeting to a close.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia was held at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, Melbourne, on Friday, the 9th April.

Present—Messrs. Brinsmead, Blackett, Baker, R. P. Francis, Gamble, Huntsman, Hooper, Harrison, Kingsland, Nelson, and Tompsitt.

The vice-president, Mr. J. Brinsmead, in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting, and also the annual meeting held on the 10th March, were read and confirmed.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

The following new members, having conformed to the necessary forms of application, were balloted for and duly elected :—

Messrs. B. Pincline, Temora, N.S.W.

Gustav Heinrich, Eganstown.

Hulett White Calkins, South Yarra.

Charles Erza Brown, Bacchus Marsh.

Carl Gadcke, Fitzroy.

Edwin P. Plummer, Lancefield.

John Clark C. Jones, Lilydale.

The name of Mr. Frederick Brooks Wilkinson, of Hobart, Tasmania, was also restored to the list of members, on payment of his back subscription, and the resignation of Mr. E. L. Marks received and accepted.

THE INTERCOLONIAL PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

The committee submitted a report, in which the proposed platform to be submitted to the other colonies for their suggestion or amendment is detailed. The report was adopted, and it will at once be forwarded to the various societies throughout Australasia, with a request that it may be discussed and returned, with any suggestions or additions, before the 30th June next, so that the final programme to be submitted to the Conference may then be prepared.

THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH PRIZES WILL IN FUTURE BE GIVEN.

A series of conditions under which prizes will in future be given were submitted and discussed, some members of the Council being favourable to allow students who have taken single subjects to compete for the Gold Medal and other prizes. The matter was finally postponed until the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters were received—from Mr. E. L. Marks, resigning his membership; Mr. Sidney Plowman forwarded copy of the *Year Book of Pharmacy*; from Mr. F. D. Wilkinson, Hobart, applying to have his name restored to the members' list; from Mr. J. W. Main, Adelaide, acknowledging receipt of copy of the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy* for the library of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia; from Messrs. R. B. Rees, Eaglehawk; Boyett, Kyneton; S. M. Burroughs, London.

Financial and general business brought the meeting to a close.

The Month.

It is notified by the examiners under the Pharmacy Act of Victoria that candidates for examination in practical pharmacy will be expected to be familiar with the new Pharmacopœia.

At a meeting of the Medical Board of Victoria held on the 9th March, Dr. S. R. Corder, of Powlett-street, East Melbourne, and Dr. J. Small, of Geelong, were registered as duly qualified medical practitioners.

THE Central Board of Health has received a communication from Mr. John Kyle, the manager of the Budgeree Patent Disinfecting Company, stating that he is prepared to thoroughly deodorise and disinfect the whole of the night-soil from the city and suburbs, and remove it to a distance of 30 miles by rail from Melbourne to a spot at which 320 acres of land have been secured, entirely isolated from all habitations. The proposal will be brought under the consideration of the board at its next meeting.

At the usual monthly meeting of the Medical Society, held on the 3rd March, the action of the Chief Secretary in reducing the fee for examining and granting a certificate of health for all young persons under the age of 16, under the new Factories Act, from 7s. 6d to 5s., was brought before the members by Dr. Tweeddale. The members present, after some discussion, agreed that the sum mentioned was quite inadequate to the services required, and that a copy of the resolution should be immediately forwarded to the Central Board of Health.

THE Noxious Fumes Board have made a number of recommendations respecting the employment of nitro-glycerine compounds and compressed air in mines. The Mining department has issued a circular to mining managers requesting them to adopt the suggestions of the Board as far as practicable. The Noxious Fumes Board expressed the opinion that nitro-glycerine compounds were injurious to health when used in quantities exceeding those required to lift the burden, and that they were especially injurious when used in dry or ill-ventilated places. The Board recommended that powder only should be used in dry ground, experience having shown it to be as cheap and effective as dynamite in that kind of country.

MR. A. W. PEARSON, the agricultural chemist, has just made an analysis of the bark of the acacia retinodes, a variety of the wattle tree which grows in South Australia, and of the acacia pycnantha, or golden wattle. A short time ago some trees of the South Australian variety were grown at the State Nursery, at Mount Macedon, by mistake, and the analyses referred to were made for the purpose of ascertaining the commercial value of the bark as compared with that of the golden wattle, which is the best variety. The report furnished by Mr. Pearson shows that, while the bark of the golden wattle contained 40 per cent. of tannin, the other gave 32 per cent. The result is considered sufficiently favourable to justify the cultivation of the trees which have been planted out.

IN the seventh part of Mr. J. E. Brown's *Forest Flora of South Australia*, which has just been issued, the author figures and describes the long flower-stalked wattle, or *acacia spilleriana*, which is a species new to science, and was only found about a year ago by himself, in a district about 25 miles south-east of the Burra. It forms a handsome ever-green shrub, growing to the height of 8ft. or 9ft., and its globular inflorescence, of a golden-yellow colour, and throwing off a soft and delicate perfume, renders it a pleasing object in the landscape. Two varieties of the eucalyptus are figured—the manna and the box gum respectively. The former name has been adopted by Mr. Brown as the most suitable for what is known by a variety of epithets, because this species abounds in the mellitode manna of the chemists to a greater degree than any other known member of the genus. It is recommended for plantation, as it is very hardy, has an easily transplanted open root, and is not readily

affected by frosts. Two beautiful examples of the *Eremophila*—the opposite-leaved and the alternative-leaved—are also given, and the illustrations in every instance are remarkable for their accuracy, both as regards form and colour.

"WHAT is biology?" was the subject of a lecture delivered at Ormond College, on the 25th March, by Mr. D. M'Alpine, F.G.S. Mr. J. H. M'Farland, head master of the college, occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance. In answering the question propounded, Mr. M'Alpine gave some of the current conceptions of the meaning of the term biology, and showed that the expression, "science of life," did not supply a satisfactory definition. The meaning attached to it by such men as Spencer and Huxley was also quoted, and the lecturer stated his own conclusion to be that biology involved a study of plants and animals on a thoroughly comparative basis. The lecturer was able in the course of his address to give an interesting sketch of the progress of biology, and of the protoplasmic theory of life. At the close of the lecture a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. M'Alpine, on the motion of Professor Kernot.

A COMPLIMENTARY banquet was given on Friday evening, the 19th March, in the Prahran Town Hall, to Councillor Bowen, a member of the Prahran City Council, who is about to pay a visit to America and Europe. The chair was occupied by Mr. T. B. Muntz, the Mayor of Prahran. After the banquet had been partaken of, the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were proposed and honoured. Councillor Muntz, in proposing the toast of "Our Guest," spoke in terms of the highest appreciation of the great services which Councillor Bowen had rendered to the municipality of Prahran during the ten years in which he had been a member of the council. Councillor Bowen thanked the gentlemen present for the honour they had done him by inviting him to the banquet. He stated that in whatever position he had occupied in Prahran, whether in connection with the council or any of the local societies, his sole object had been to promote the interests of the city and its inhabitants. Several other toasts were also proposed and duly honoured.

THE CASE OF HARRISON V. BEACH.

THE case Harrison v. Beach, which has created considerable local interest, has just been decided in the County Court by Judge Quinlan in favour of Mr. Harrison, who has been awarded £50 damages together with all costs. The case was first heard some weeks ago, when Mr. Harrison, of Chapel-street, Prahran, sued Mr. Beach, also of Prahran, and also asked for an injunction to restrain him from carrying on as a chemist and druggist, within the limits agreed upon, in a written agreement entered into by the parties, by which Mr. Harrison purchased the business, including the goodwill and fixtures, for the sum of £1000, with the understanding that Mr. Beach should not commence in opposition to him within a radius of four miles. Immediately after the sale of his business Mr. Beach commenced as a prescribing chemist in a private house at Greville-street, Prahran, and advertised that he could be consulted as usual free of charge, but at the same time charged for the medicine he supplied. He subsequently removed to Chapel-street, where he opened a regular chemist's shop. Counsel for the defence having brought forward arguments of a technical character, his Honour reserved his decision to consider the points, hence the delay in giving judgment in favour of the plaintiff. His Honour did not grant an injunction restraining Beach from carrying on business, as he was doubtful of his power to do so. Since the judgment was given Mr. Beach has sought the protection of the Insolvent Court, and filed his schedule.

New South Wales.

SYDNEY PHARMACISTS' PICNIC.

A social gathering of master pharmacists took place in Sydney on the 24th of March last. A party of about 80 of the leading pharmacists assembled on Circular Quay and embarked for a day's outing and a dinner on the grounds of Dr. Hansard, at Pearl Bay. The picnic committee consisted of Messrs. T. B. Melhuish, J. E. Jackson, W. Donald, and J. H. Manners, the secretaries being Messrs. W. Hume and A. G. Kebblewhite. The first steamer left the wharf at 10.30 a.m., conveying the party round the southern shore of the harbour, and calling at Double Bay to pick up a large fishing boat and nets. A second steamer arrived about 1.30 p.m., bringing many whose business engagements prevented their leaving Sydney by the earlier boat. Twenty-five apologies had been received by the secretary, Mr. A. G. Kebblewhite, and it was exceedingly regretted that Mr. F. E. Sloper and Mr. F. Senior were among the absentees. Mr. W. Hume was unable to attend through illness, and two members of the Board of Pharmacy, Messrs. Bozon and Pratt, were prevented by business engagements from participating in the pleasures of the day.

Among those present were representatives of Messrs. Elliott Bros. and E. Prosser and Co. Of the Pharmaceutical Society we noticed Mr. W. Larmer (president) and W. T. Pinhey (secretary), and Messrs. Watt, Mayne, Carter, and McCarthy (members of council), and, with few exceptions, all the leading pharmacists of the city sat down to dinner. The chair was taken by Mr. John Rose, and the vice-chair by Mr. Evan Prosser.

After the usual loyal toasts, next in order came the toast of the day, "Success to the Master Pharmacists." Mr. Rose said he hailed with delight the idea of the pharmacists gathering together for interchange of thought and friendly feeling with one another, and he hoped that this would be but the first of a number of similar happy gatherings. He hoped that the barrier of coldness had been for ever broken down, and this social reunion had been the means of bringing together many who hitherto only knew one another by name. The greatest praise was due to those gentlemen who organised the day's pleasure. He sincerely hoped that the picnic would be made an annual gathering, and would be the means of establishing those feelings of friendship and harmony that had been so long required. The toast was drank amidst mutual congratulations.

Mr. T. B. Melhuish, in responding on behalf of master pharmacists, said that it gave him the greatest pleasure to see so many professional brethren. He had had doubts as to its success when he proposed the matter with a few of the committee a few days ago, but the way in which friends had responded to the invitations to assist in making this gathering a success quite exceeded his expectations. Pharmacists have little time to spend in outings of this sort, but he felt sure they could appreciate them when an opportunity presented itself, and he hoped that this would be the initiation of an annual custom that should tend to cement together the druggists of our city in the bonds of mutual sympathy, and would secure their co-operation in many of those important matters in which they could do but little if unanimity and cordial friendship did not mark their actions. On behalf of the master pharmacists present, he thanked the chairman for his kind wishes, and the company for the hearty manner in which they had drunk the toast.

Mr. E. Prosser proposed the health of "The Retail Trade." The chairman had admirably expressed his sentiments in his speech. He was happy to be present and evince the interest that he always took in the affairs of those engaged in the drug trade. The druggist had long hours to work behind his

counter, and there were many difficulties with which he had to contend that those outside the trade knew nothing of. They were not eight hour men by any means. They had to keep an expensive stock and expensively fitted shop. Besides, the responsibility entailed by their work was by no means slight, and should not be underrated. Legislation on pharmaceutical matters was urgently needed. They had a Pharmaceutical Society, it is true, but some might think that, although much had been done, much more was yet to be done, and if the present society did not do it, let them have a druggists' trade association to do it. If all would pull together in the right direction, he was sure that matters would soon be put on a very different footing, and the retail trade would be relieved of many of the hardships under which it labours. He hoped that the anticipations of the committee of this gathering would be fully fulfilled, and that he should have the pleasure of being present with them at their next gathering. He proposed the health of the retail trade, coupled with the names of Mr. J. Watson and Mr. A. J. Watt.

Mr. Watt, in responding, said that he was happy to see so thoroughly representative a meeting, and to see that the druggists of Sydney were so fine a body of men. They had many of the veterans of the trade present, and they knew that a druggist's business is not now what it was years ago. He hoped that there was a good time coming, in which our colony would see the reasonableness of a more stringent law respecting the sale and use of poisons.

Mr. Watson also responded.

Mr. A. J. Watt proposed the toast, "Prosperity to the Wholesale Firms," coupled with the name of Dr. Geo. Elliott.

Dr. J. Elliott, who was received with loud applause, replied, and said that the kind mention that had been made of his father, Dr. Geo. Elliott, gave him the greatest pleasure.

This toast was also responded to by Mr. E. Prosser, Mr. Langton, and Mr. Jamieson.

The following toast was also duly honoured:—"The Pharmaceutical Society," to which Messrs. Larmer, Pinhey, and Mayne responded.

Various other toasts followed.

THE NEW TARIFF.

The following are the items of interest to pharmacists in the new tariff submitted by the Treasurer of New South Wales to the Assembly on the 6th April:—Schedule A—Fixed Duties.—Acid, acetic, per gallon, 2s. 6d.; alum, cwt., 1s.; arrowroot, lb., 1d.; baking powder, yeast, custard and egg powders, and self-raising flour, 1d.; bitters, not more than 25 per cent. proof spirit, gallon, 4s.; more than 25 per cent. proof spirit, gallon, 12s.; blue, lb., 1d.; carbonate of soda and tartaric acid, lb., 1d.; caraway seeds, lb., 2d.; cordials, not containing spirit, balm, syrups, fruit, essences, limefruit and limejuice, cordials, citronade, raspberry vinegar, aromatic vinegar, or raspberry and strawberry acids, pints and smaller quantities, dozen, 9d.; reputed quarts, dozen, 1s. 6d.; citric acid, gallon, 2s. 6d.; cream of tartar, per lb., 1d.; chicory, dandelion, and taraxacum, raw or kiln-dried, lb., 3d.; roasted, ground, or mixed with any other article, lb., 6d.; chocolate, plain or mixed with any other article, and chocolate creams, lb., 6d.; comfits, lb., 2d.; confectionery, lb., 2lb.; cornflour, lb., 1d.; effervescing powder and powders, lb., 1d.; essences, flavouring, and fruit containing not more than 25 per cent. of proof spirit, gallon, 4s.; containing more than 25 per cent. of proof spirit, gallon, 12s.; farinaceous foods prepared, not being wheaten flour or oatmeal, lb., 1d.;

gelatine, lb., 1d.; ginger, dried or green, lb., 1d.; glucose, liquid and syrup, cwt., 3s. 4d.; glucose, solid, cwt., 5s.; groats, patent, lb., 1d.; honey, lb., 1d.; liquorice and liquorice paste, lb., 2d.; lozenges, of all kinds, lb., 2d.; maizena, lb., 1d.; mustard, lb., 1d.; macaroni and vermicelli, lb., 1d.; meat extract, lb., 2d.; milk, condensed or preserved, lb., 1d.; milk foods, lb., 1d.; naptha and gasoline, gallon, 6d.; opium, and any preparation or solution thereof, not imported for uses known in medicine, lb., 20s.; oils, except black, cocoanut, and sperm, gallon, 6d.; oils in bottle, except essential oils, reputed quarts, dozen, 1s. 6d.; reputed pints, dozen, 9d.; reputed half-pints and smaller size, dozen, 6d.; pitch, tar, and resin, barrel, 2s.; plaster and plaster of Paris, barrel, 2s.; prunes, lb., 2d.; saltpetre, ton, 20s.; sarsaparilla, if containing not more than 25 per cent. of proof spirit, gallon, 4s.; if containing more than 25 per cent. of proof spirit, gallon, 12s.; soda crystals (gross), ton, 20s.; spices, lb., 2d.; spirits, on all kinds of spirits imported into the colony, the strength of which can be ascertained by Sykes' hydrometer, per proof gallon, 12s.; no allowance beyond 16·5 shall be made for the underproof of any spirits of a less hydrometer strength than 16·5 under proof on all spirits and spirituous compounds imported into the colony, the strength of which cannot be ascertained by Sykes' hydrometer, per liquid gallon, 12s.; methylated, gallon, 2s.; starch and starch powder, lb., 1½d.; stearine, lb., 1d.; succades and sweetmeats, lb., 2d.; salts, Epsom, lb., 1d.; spirits, perfumed water, Florida water, and bay rum, per liquid gallon, 15s.; sherbet, lb., 1d.; soap, toilet and scented, lb., 1d.; sugar candy, lb., 2d.; turpentine, gallon, 1s.; tapioca and semolina, lb., 1d.; twine and lines, cwt., 2s.; tinctures and fluid extracts containing spirit, the strength of which cannot be ascertained accurately by Sykes' hydrometer, per liquid gallon, 12s.; varnish and lithographic varnishes, gallon, 2s.; vinegar other than aromatic or raspberry, gallon, 6d.; wax, Japan, lb., 1d.; paraffin, lb., 1d.; mineral, lb., 1d.; vegetable, lb., 1d.; and upon all other articles, goods, wares, and merchandise imported into the colony, and not enumerated in Schedule A, for every 100 pounds or the value thereof, the sum of £5.

An action, brought by Ephraim Cross, a brickmaker, of Campbelltown, against Dr. Goode, a medical practitioner in the neighbourhood, to recover damages for the injuries and expense sustained by the plaintiff, owing to the "careless, negligent, and unskilful" way in which it was alleged Dr. Goode had treated him when he met with an accident in May last year, was brought to a conclusion on 30th March, after occupying the attention of Mr. Justice Windeyer and a special jury of twelve for four days. The jury, by a three-fourths majority, found for the plaintiff, with damages for the full amount claimed, £500.

A nicely illuminated address was, on 26th March, presented by the medical students of the Sydney University to Professor Anderson Stuart, as a mark of their sympathy and respect for him in his recent domestic trouble. Mr. D. D. Rutledge presented the address, which bore the signatures of thirty-one students. Dr. Stuart suitably replied.

It will be remembered that in April, 1885, a woman named Mary Ann Burton, and her daughter, Sarah Keep, tried at Maitland on a charge of murdering the husband of the latter by administering poison, were found guilty and condemned to death, the sentence being subsequently commuted to imprisonment for life. Mrs. Keep died in Darlinghurst Gaol in September last, and on Saturday, 3rd inst., the elder prisoner expired in the gaol hospital, where an

operation had been performed upon her by Dr. M. O'Connor for strangulated hernia. At the inquest the jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes, to wit, "peritonitis, consequent upon an operation for strangulated femoral hernia."

The following report on the maize blight by Mr. William Morris, F.F.P. and S., Glas., F.R.M.S., London, may be of some interest:—"I have examined microscopically the sample plant of diseased maize you sent me, also several specimens fresh from the country. Your specimens consisted of one plant and three cobs of corn, evidently having been gathered several weeks. The other specimens were still green and fresh, only a few days old, and consisted of several stalks, leaves, and one cob of corn not ripe. The first three cobs were grown to maturity, fairly healthy, a little pinched in the grain. The other cob was not ripe, and appeared to be in good condition. No diseased grains in either sample. On the stalks and leaves I cannot detect any rust or smut (ustilago). The various fungi that are visible arise from the decay of the dead portions of the leaves, and these black fungi are always to be found on decaying vegetable matter. There is not the least sign of any swelling, contortion, or distortion, of any portion of the plants, which would be if it had been attacked with a ustilago (smut). If it had been rust the leaves would have been covered with a fine red dust, so much so that, if a person walked through a field attacked with this disease, his clothes would be covered with it, from the experience of which I myself have suffered. From the examination of the above specimens it appears to me that the plant having been stunted in the early part of its growth, probably from want of sufficient moisture, a copious sudden fall of rain taking place, the plant absorbed more moisture than it could properly utilise. This caused the stem to increase in size quicker than its silicious cuticle could bear the strain of, causing small fissures to be formed in the stem near the joints. The cellular tissue now being exposed to the action of the air, fermentation immediately set up, the torulae spores sent out their filaments (mycelium), which, ramifying through the cellular tissue, caused decomposition at the joints, and a gradual decay of the leaves, and now become covered with the minute black spots which are the fungoid scavengers of all decaying vegetable matter. From the above observations you may dismiss any idea of fungoid (rust or smut) character. You may call it a maize gangrene or cellulitis, as there are any amount of bacteria to be found in the diseased vegetable tissue at the joints. I herewith enclose you a drawing of the ravages of the ustilago maydis (smut) on maize, which may be interesting to the members of the board and the public in general, and will convey a better idea than any written description I can give you of this disease."

A clerk, named Charles Stewart Miller, died at his residence, Elizabeth-street, Paddington, from, it is believed, a dose of prussic acid self-administered. He was a member of the Soudan contingent, and respondent in a divorce case now before the court.

A servant girl employed at Messrs. Hodgson and Co.'s, Summer Hill, committed suicide on 10th March by taking a portion of the contents of a bottle of carbolic acid. She died shortly afterwards. Domestic trouble was said to be the cause.

Clinton H. Walbridge, *alias* Carl von Berin, a chemist, who absconded from Sydney in October last with about £1000 belonging to the Australian Powder and Explosive Manufacturing Company, of Narrabeen, near Sydney, arrived in Melbourne on the 1st March, having been brought back from England by Senior-constable Murphy, of the Sydney Police. The prisoner went to England by the ship *Loch Vennachar*, for London. Senior-constable Murphy started in pursuit by the R.M.S.S. *Ballarat* on 19th November, and arrived at

Plymouth on 3rd January. He then chartered a lugger, and met the *Loch Vennachar* in the English Channel at 1 a.m. on 6th January in a snowstorm, and arrested Walbridge in his berth. The prisoner was taken before the Bow-street Police Court, and duly remanded to Sydney. At Williamstown Detective Coleman took charge of the prisoner and brought him up to Melbourne. A sum of £760 in gold has also been recovered by Senior-constable Murphy from the prisoner.

At the inquest on the body of Mrs. Brough, the wife of Mr. John Brough, hotelkeeper at Yandarlo, the jury returned a verdict that the deceased committed suicide by taking a dose of strychnine while temporarily insane. A tricopherous bottle half full of the poison was found in the room, and there were also several grains at the bottom of a tumbler.

A boy named Norris has died in the Albury Hospital under chloroform. Drs. Woods and Kennedy were removing twelve teeth which were growing inside his usual teeth, and materially affected his speech.

Mr. Quong Tart entertained the members of the Presbyterian Assembly of New South Wales at tea in the Royal Arcade on Thursday evening, 18th March. A vote of thanks was passed to him, and, when responding, he said that it was his intention to carry on his crusade against the opium traffic, and he asked the ministers of the Church to assist him in his work. He said that a few thousand pounds were received in revenue at present, but this did not compensate for the evil that was being done, the full effects of which would be felt in the third and following generations.

The City Coroner resumed his inquiry at the residence of Professor Anderson Stuart, Toxteth-street, Glebe, into the circumstances attending the death of Mrs. Anderson Stuart, who was found dead in bed. The evidence was to the effect that deceased had been ailing for some time, and to allay pain and produce sleep she had been in the habit of taking narcotics. One of the servants said Mrs. Stuart had been in the habit of taking larger doses of narcotics than ordered. Professor Stuart had for domestic reasons been absent from home for a few days previously to the death of his wife. Professor Stuart, recalled, said that his wife had never expressed any intention of taking her life. She was the last sort of person who would do such a thing. Mr. Hamlet, assistant Government analyst, said that upon examining the contents of the stomach, which had been handed to him, he found it was in a healthy condition, but in the kidney he found bromide of potassium, and in the intestines distinct traces of morphia. The jury returned the following verdict:—"That deceased died from an overdose of morphia, but there is no evidence to show by whom it was administered."

A NOTED statistician, Edward Atkinson, insists that there is an abundance of room yet in this world. The 1,400,000,000 persons supposed to be on the globe could all find easy standing-room within the limits of a field ten miles square, and by the aid of a telephone could be addressed at one time by a single speaker. In a field 20 miles square they could all be comfortably seated.

A SIMPLE recipe is given in *L'Illustration* for making luminous paper. The composition consists of forty parts ordinary paper pulp, ten parts water, ten parts phosphorescent powder, one part gelatine, and one part bichromate of potassa. The phosphorescent powder is composed of sulphides of calcium, barium, and strontium, well ground and mixed together. The bichromate of potassa acting on the gelatine renders the paper, which is manufactured in the ordinary way, impermeable.

South Australia.

FATAL ARSENIC POISONING CASES AT BORDER TOWN.

A sad case of poisoning by arsenic, resulting in the death of three persons, occurred at Border Town on 22nd March, in the household of Mr. T. B. Oliver, a storekeeper. The circumstances attending this dreadful calamity reveal an almost incredible degree of carelessness in the handling of a substance so dangerous to human life as arsenic. It would appear from the evidence, as reported in the *S.A. Chronicle*, that half a pound of the poison, put in an unlabelled parcel by the assistant, Peate, was taken out of Mr. Oliver's store to be mixed with flour in making a paste for the hanging of some wall paper in a cottage in course of preparation by Mr. Oliver for a tenant. The paperhanger—a man named Dale—having partly accomplished his task, quitted the cottage to go on a drinking bout, leaving the unused portion of the arsenic on a bracket, no precaution having been taken to intimate its dangerous character. Subsequently Mrs. Oliver found the parcel, and, thinking the package contained flour left by a former tenant, handed it to her servant, with the result that it found its way into the dinner, poisoning eight members of the family. Unfortunately, no suspicion being entertained at the outset that the symptoms complained of were the result of poison, an error was made in the remedies—tartar emetic and zinc—administered by Dr. Mountain. The true state of the case having been discovered, Drs. Mountain and Steven appear to have done everything for their relief that science could suggest, notwithstanding which three of the sufferers, Mary Cunningham, Florence Munt, and Francis Oliver, succumbed next day. At the inquest the following verdict was returned by the jury:—"We find that the death of Mary Cunningham on the 23rd, and Francis Oliver and Florence Munt on the 22nd March, was caused by the arsenic given to Dale by order of Mrs. Oliver and ultimately brought in by the latter to the kitchen, where it was mixed by someone unknown with the food prepared for the dinner. We also find Mr. Peate censurable for serving out the arsenic without being labelled 'poison'; Dale guilty of gross carelessness in giving up the key of the house where he knew unlabelled poison was lying about; and Mrs. Oliver censurable for using the supposed flour under the conditions." So far as it goes the verdict is fairly in accordance with the facts of the case, although it might be asked why, while Dale was found guilty of gross carelessness, Peate, whose omission to label the parcel "poison" may be said to have been the origin of the tragedy, should be considered simply censurable. The true moral of the sad affair seems, however, to have been entirely missed, and that is the danger of entrusting storekeepers and other unprofessional retailers with the sale of drugs and poisons. This is a question the importance of which is daily becoming more evident, and which must, sooner or later, be dealt with in a practical manner. It appears to be the desire of the South Australian authorities to formulate a charge against Mr. J. B. Oliver, or his assistant, Peate; but, to quote an Adelaide journal, "it appears doubtful whether there is any ground for action, owing to the fact that the Act under which proceedings would probably be taken refers only to the 'sale' of poisons." According to the Victorian Sale and Use of Poisons Act 1876 "any owner or other person whatsoever in charge or possession of any poison who shall leave it in any place (whether the same be ordinarily accessible to others or not), unless the bottle or package of whatever kind in which such poison may be contained shall be marked as 'Poison,' and be otherwise duly labelled in the manner provided by section 6, shall be liable, on summary conviction thereof before any two justices, to a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds." Were this clause introduced into the South Australian Act the authorities would have no difficulty in dealing with such

cases. In this matter we have one more illustration of the necessity of assimilating the "Poison" laws of the various Australian colonies, and if the forthcoming Conference should effect nothing more than this it will not have met in vain.

Drs. Jay and Giles have been elected honorary assistant surgeons of the Adelaide Hospital, and Dr. Wyatt re-appointed chairman of the board of management. Dr. Poulton has resigned his position of senior house surgeon, it being his intention to enter private practice.

Our Royal Society has had another section added to it in the form of a Microscopical Society, the objects of which are to study those branches of knowledge in which the microscope is used as the principal mode of research. The society does not by any means intend to be an exclusive one, as Dr. H. T. Whittell, who presided at the inaugural meeting, stated that "any persons who possessed microscopes and wished to learn would be heartily welcomed." Dr. Whittell himself, it may be added, is the possessor of a small compound instrument which is said to be over 100 years old.

Dr. Schomburgk, the director of the Botanical Gardens, Adelaide, has been elected a corresponding member of the Botanic Society of Copenhagen. This makes the fiftieth diploma that he has received.

Professor Watson, of the Adelaide University, returned from Germany on Saturday, 20th March. The object of his visit was to procure rabbits infected with a contagious parasite, with a view of trying experiments in the extermination of rabbits by the introduction of the pest. He obtained two dozen rabbits, but they all died on the voyage out. It is intended to make an effort to procure a fresh supply.

Dr. Cleland, medical superintendent at the Parkside Lunatic Asylum, South Australia, has been appointed lecturer in *materia medica* in the Adelaide University.

Tasmania.

THE most difficult question to satisfactorily settle, if a Pharmacy Bill is introduced into Parliament this session, will be that of representation. As the Board must consist of an odd number, say five or seven members, the majority should be those residing in Hobart, so that no delay in conducting urgent business should take place through the inability of northern members to attend. The action of this majority would always have to be ratified by the full Board at a meeting to take place—that is if the northern members disagreed with the action of the southern ones. A meeting of the full Board should be held half-yearly, when the examinations would be conducted, and such business as had been carried out in the meantime officially ratified by the full Board. This representation difficulty would, no doubt, be a source of irritation to the northern members, but when they remember that many members of the trade are not able to leave their businesses to attend meetings held 120 miles away, they will agree that this is the only solution of the difficulty of representation, and that whatever action was taken by the southern sub-committee, for it can really be called nothing more, must affect themselves equally with their northern brethren. In any case the governing body must have sufficient members to carry on the business in one city or close to it, and it naturally follows that, as Hobart is the capital, so there the Board must have its headquarters.

The Hobart Chemists' Association showed some vitality by holding a meeting on the 19th February, when Messrs. H. Hinsby (chairman), Toplis, Ash, Drake, W. G. Weaver, and the hon. secretary were present. Apologies were read from non-attending members. The meeting was called to decide what action the Association should take *in re* "unqualified dispensers," to which a great amount of publicity had been given during the past fortnight through the columns of the *Mercury*. There was no doubt that the evil did exist in the north, but in Hobart there was only one offender. After a prolonged discussion, the secretary was instructed to write to the Court of Medical Examiners, drawing their attention to the number of unqualified chemists in Tasmania, and asking them to take immediate steps to prevent further abuse of the laws at present in force. After some routine business had been transacted the meeting adjourned till 9th March, to wait the action of the Medical Court. The meeting called for the 9th March lapsed through business preventing the majority of members attending. We believe the secretary had received an intimation from the secretary of the Medical Court to the effect that the offending members had been written to and cautioned against continuing in business till they had become registered by the Court, or else passed the necessary examination. At the same meeting a candidate endeavoured to pass the examination, but failed miserably, showing a great want of knowledge in all subjects, and was ordered not to come up again for twelve months. As the nine offending members reside in the northern districts and Launceston, it is to be hoped their Association will see that the law is strictly carried out in its entirety, and these offending members prevented from practising.

The Central Board of Health have held their usual meetings, but, beyond ordering "Dr. Hall's directions to stay the spread of infectious diseases, and receiving the nominations of medical men by the local Boards of Health as health officer," their business has not been particularly important. Owing to the small remuneration (£10) offered by the local boards, there is some difficulty in getting medical men to act as health officers to large municipalities. At the next meeting a most important appointment is to be made, i.e., Sanitary Inspector to the Board, with a salary of £250 per annum and expenses.

Another of "our boys" has been distinguishing himself in the old country. We refer to Mr. A. F. Davenport, eldest son of Archdeacon Davenport, who has just passed his final examination for the membership of the Royal College of Surgeons and the London University M.B. Examination in the first division, securing honours for obstetric medicine.

Our pleasure in hearing of Mr. Davenport's success is, however, greatly damped by the news of the death, in London, of Mr. D. Farmillo, who, after walking the Hobart Hospital for six months, proceeded home two years ago, and had since passed several successful examinations at the London University Hospital. Deceased, who was barely twenty-one years of age, was the youngest son of the late Mr. D. Farmillo, of Hobart, and when his last letters reached his friends here he was in excellent health, and had every prospect of a brilliant future.

We understand that Mr. W. W. Eldridge, Government Architect, made an inspection of the General Hospital recently, and fixed a site near the nurses' quarters for the hot water apparatus, so that in a short time hot water will be supplied all over the institution.

It is notified in the *Government Gazette* that Carl Eberhard has been registered as a duly qualified chemist by the Medical Board of Tasmania. This item will be of special interest to Victorian chemists, as Mr. Eberhard, who has been in the service of Messrs. L. Fairthorne and Son, Launceston, for the last twelve months, holds a certificate under the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, having qualified as a chemist by passing the Victorian major examination.

Mr. Arthur E. Lamprill, jun., a Tasmanian scholar for 1885, left Launceston on 1st April by the steamer *Flinders*, *en route* for England, to enter upon his study of medicine at Oxford.

Dr. L. G. Thompson, Superintendent of the Launceston Hospital, is now engaged collecting snake poison for transmission to Professor Fraser, of the Edinburgh University, for experimental purposes. The poison is obtained from the snakes by means of a finger of a glove being placed over the bowl of a spoon with which the snake is irritated until he bites the spoon and ejects the contents of his fangs into the concavity. The poison is then carefully collected and dried.

"Anglo-Australian," in the *European Mail* of 29th January, says:—"I am glad to see that Mr. Robert Kidd, of Tasmania, has been admitted a member of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh." This should be Mr. Russell Kidd, a son of Mr. W. H. Kidd, of Launceston, and who has been studying for the medical profession at the Edinburgh University.

At a meeting of the Central Board of Health at Hobart, on 13th March, the secretary stated that he had received a communication from the authorities at New Norfolk announcing the recent typhoid cases there were progressing satisfactorily. It was resolved to write to the Hobart Local Board requesting them to frame by-laws without delay. The president, Dr. Perkins, alluded to the fact that some police districts in the colony were not municipalities, and had no local Boards of Health. It was decided to draw the attention of the Chief Secretary to the necessity of appointing a local Board of Health in all such districts.

A public exhibition of Laythorpe Underwood's snake-bite antidote was recently given in Launceston, but, much to the agent's (Mr. Kemp's) surprise and chagrin, the three cats selected as subjects did not seem to benefit much from its virtues, as in each case they speedily succumbed to the venom of the reptiles introduced to their acquaintance. Mr. Kemp states that the same snakes have repeatedly bitten cats which are now living, and accounts for the failure from the fact that the snakes had been shaken about by a journey of 27 miles, and were unusually savage and full of venom.

In another experiment two grains of snake poison mixed with 13 minims of antidotes was injected along the spine of a strong kitten. The animal died in less than half-an-hour.

Annie Appleby, aged 24, employed as a domestic servant at the All Nations' Hotel, Hobart, was taken to the hospital on the 1st inst. suffering from the effects of having swallowed sixpennyworth of carbolic acid. She was duly treated, and at latest was reported to be in a fair way towards recovery.

At a late meeting of the Launceston Council attention was drawn to the great number of typhoid cases reported, it being stated that more cases had occurred during the first quarter of the present year than during the previous twelve months. The matter was said to be about to be brought under the notice of the Health Committee.

THERE were, according to Dr. Dujardin-Beaumetz, 19 deaths from hydrophobia in Paris last year—a number higher than in previous years—and yet the number of stray dogs destroyed was also higher, viz., 5060. Of these 19 persons, 15 were males and 4 females. The youngest was a little girl of five and a half years; the oldest, a man of 63. The time of incubation varied from 19 months (in the case of a young man of 26) to 29 days (a child of 11).

New Zealand.

3rd April.

At the meeting of shareholders in the New Zealand Drug Company (late Messrs. Kempthorne, Prosser and Co.) a 10 per cent. dividend was declared, which, on the whole, may be considered satisfactory when the competition colonial houses have to contend against, both from the old country and America, is taken into consideration. Here in New Zealand the majority of retail chemists import direct, no doubt considerations of price influencing them in the course they so largely adopt. But it is only reasonable to suppose that, if arrangements could be made with the excise, many tinctures could more cheaply be made, and of much more reliable composition, than those that are sometimes obtained from London. The climate here in the North Island is particularly adapted to the growth of many medicinal plants, and any one that required a less elevated temperature could, no doubt, be successfully reared further south.

During the Melbourne Exhibition Mr. Piesse did much to point out how possible it was to make flower farming a paying venture in Australia. The same thing may be urged with equal cogency in the matter of New Zealand. There are acres of land in the neighbourhood of Christchurch admirably adapted to the growth of lavender and the various mints, and no doubt a suitable situation could be obtained from the Government in order to encourage and foster a new industry. There is exhibited to-day in the windows of at least ten florists' shops very splendid flowers of the tuberose. Gardenia, sweet daphne, and violet also grow well here. These flowers alone, with cheap and good fat, should make the name of New Zealand pomade a power in the perfumery market.

The Auckland University have determined in their wisdom to open *half* a medical school here, and on the *last day of last month* appointed Mr. C. D. Mackellar, M.D., C.M., lecturer on anatomy. The college is certainly to be congratulated on securing such a man as Dr. Mackellar to inaugurate the work; but being, as they are, in somewhat straitened circumstances, it does seem a little short-sighted to rush into further outlay when the departments already opened for instruction are at present so badly equipped in the matter of apparatus and house room.

Major Atkinson, an ex-premier of the colony, who has been speaking here in the early part of the week, said the people are not sincere in their desire for retrenchment. One of the two daily papers in the city thus comments on the above:—"At a late meeting of the Council of the Auckland University it was agreed, on the recommendation of a Professor, that his assistant should have his salary raised; but it flashed across the mind of one of the members that the next Professor would feel that his dignity was impaired if *his* assistant had not an equal salary, and, therefore, to prevent making two bites of a cherry, he suggested they should level up the biological assistant also, who otherwise would naturally think he had been 'done brown.' One of the members, of a practical turn of mind, came to the fore, and asked, in his usual cold-blooded way, what were the latter man's duties, for, so far as he could see, there was no use for him. Then the trouble began, and there was nothing for it but an 'official utterance.' It was said he occasionally did carpentering. A sheep's entrails had been seen in his room, but that was 'a fluke.' Sometimes he went out of a morning to look for frogs, and now and then he dabbed in distilled spirits, but it was thoughtfully interjected that they were medicated, and the Customs lost nothing. Strange to say, though the members thought after such a category of patriotic service that the biological man deserved well of his

country, they concluded to leave his salary severely alone, and let him R.I.P. Again the member of an inquiring turn of mind came to the fore, and wanted to know how the finances stood. 'One Professor,' said he, 'sent in a requisition for £137 worth of specimens or apparatus for his department; another one wanted some things at £12, which, when the bill came in, proved to be £23; while a third Professor wanted a water-wheel. The line was drawn at the water-wheel, which, if it illustrated anything, represented that of Professors' demands there was no end. So the poor, patient, overburdened colony staggers along under a weight of taxation which no other people under heaven would endure—like Issachar, an ass crouching between two burdens.' From the above one can gather that here it is evidently deemed sufficient to appoint a Professor, give him an inferior barn to lecture in, and half a school is established.

The proprietor of Hitchen's Blood Restorer, Mr. H. A. H. Hitchens, is about to form his medicine into the New Zealand Patent Medicine Company. Surely the days of empirical nostrums has gone by. All the best proprietary articles that are now brought out make no secret of their composition, but rely on their intrinsic value and palatable form, as, for instance, the various malt extracts, pipsin, &c.

Mr. Wm. Bowen, of Melbourne, arrived here by the 'Frisco steamer, but his stay was so short—a few hours only—that there was no opportunity of showing him any civilities, which the Aucklanders—let it be said to their credit—usually do in a very gracious and unostentatious manner.

A pleasant ceremony took place at Wellington on 5th March, when Dr. Grabham was presented with a handsome afternoon tea service, manufactured entirely of Thames silver, and beautifully engraved, and an illuminated address. The presentation was made on behalf of the officers of the lunatic asylums and hospitals throughout the colony, and speaks volumes for the high esteem in which the doctor is held.

It may interest some of our readers to learn that the annual report of Messrs. Kempthorne, Prosser and Company, the New Zealand Drug Company, states that the net profit during the year amounts to £10,067. After providing for the dividend declared, and writing off for depreciation £3385, there remains, with the balance from last year, £12,154. The directors recommend out of this a dividend of seven per cent. on the paid-up capital, carrying forward £9231.

The following particulars concerning Dr. Frank Ogston, of Aberdeen, who has been appointed lecturer on hygiene and medical jurisprudence in the Otago University, have been published in the *Otago Witness* :—"Graduating at Aberdeen University in 1873, with the degrees of M.B. and C.M., Dr. Ogston received the degree of M.D. two years later. He spent a winter session at Prague, studying hygiene and toxicology, and afterwards proceeded to Paris for the purpose of studying hygiene and jurisprudence under Bouchardt and Jardieu. For upwards of ten years he was engaged in all the Aberdeen medical legal work; and in addition to being assistant to his father—the late Professor Francis Ogston—in the office of police surgeon and medical officer of health, he was lecturer on practical toxicology in the University for several years. Besides being the author of several special medical works, Dr. Ogston is also the writer of various treatises on general medicine. He is now on his way to the colony, and is expected to commence his duties on the 1st of May."

Mr. Wilson, of Otakapo station, New Zealand, reports that a flock of several hundred sheep that were badly affected by lung worms got into a plantation of young bluegums, and by browsing upon them were all completely cured.

Mr. Edson leaves us in a few days for Europe, having moved his business to-day into a new store he has just built, and which, when completed, promises to be the handsomest in the city. No doubt when in Europe he will see many novelties that he will be able to procure for his pharmacy, and so not only render it perhaps the most commodious, but may be the most elegant.

At the inquest on Mr. A. R. Woollett, chemist, Green Island, Otago, whose death was reported in our last issue, the evidence of the wife was to the effect that the deceased had gone upstairs to sleep during the night, and mixed himself a dose of chloral-hydrate and morphia. He did not seem to know what he was doing with pain, and took the medicine in a frequent and reckless manner. She took the bottle from him, as he was then ill, and sent for a doctor. The medical evidence showed that death was caused by an overdose of morphia and chloral-hydrate. A verdict to that effect was given.

At a recent meeting of the Council of the Auckland University College it was decided to take immediate steps to establish a medical school in connection with the University. Dr. Mackellar was appointed lecturer in anatomy, and £50 was granted to procure anatomical specimens. It is expected that the year's course of study at the medical school will count when the medical student goes home to the British universities to complete his medical education. The present step is made by way of experiment, and if successful it will be continued. The lectures of the professors of chemistry and biology will also be made available for the students of the medical school.

At an inquest held recently at Newmarket on the body of Mary Ann Askew, wife of a blacksmith named Richard Askew, it appeared from the evidence that, within the last few months domestic troubles having prevented her from obtaining sleep, she had fallen into the habit of taking laudanum for relief. On the 26th ult. her husband found her insensible, and, suspecting the cause, sent for Dr. Coom, who injected brandy and sulphuric ether. After some hours she was aroused so far as to open her eyes, but she soon relapsed into coma, and died on Saturday, 27th March. The jury returned a verdict of "Death by misadventure from an overdose of laudanum."

Alfred Wood, a chemist, of Green Island, Otago, New Zealand, was found dead in his bed on Thursday morning, the 11th March, supposed to be from an overdose of morphia, taken to procure sleep while suffering from neuralgia. He was a married man, with a family.

Queensland.

PHARMACY BOARD.

A MEETING of the Pharmacy Board of Queensland was held at Brisbane on Tuesday, the 30th March, 1886.

Present—Dr. Hill, Messrs. Edward Taylor, J. H. Fitzgibbon, and C. H. F. Yeo. The president (Mr. Edward Taylor) in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Board have not met since the 5th of January last, in consequence of any further action respecting the regulations being at a standstill owing to the absence of the Premier at the Federal Council in Tasmania, the greater part of the time was taken up with ordinary routine business, reading the outgoing and incoming correspondence, &c., which would not be of much interest to your readers.

The secretary intimated that the Pharmaceutical List for 1885 had been forwarded to the Government Printer, and subsequently published in the *Government Gazette*.

Also, that his Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of the Regulations made by the Pharmacy Board of Queensland, in pursuance of the provisions of "The Pharmacy Act of 1884," which regulations were published in the *Government Gazette* on the 20th March, 1886.

The Board then adjourned the meeting until the following day, when they met at 4 p.m.

Present—Dr. Hill, Dr. Ellison, Messrs. Taylor, Yeo, and Fitzgibbon. The president (Mr. Edward Taylor) in the chair.

A letter was read from Mr. C. H. Ward, pharmaceutical chemist, respecting persons already apprenticed who have not yet passed the preliminary examination, and wishing to know whether they will now have to pass the said preliminary. It was resolved that persons apprenticed before the gazetting of the regulations may pass the examination at any time during their apprenticeship, provided always that the preliminary examination be passed before presenting themselves for the professional examination.

This addition is now awaiting the approval of the Governor.

Mr. T. F. Baumgardt's letter enclosing his Swedish papers, and requesting to be registered as a pharmaceutical chemist in Queensland, was, after considerable discussion, allowed to stand over for the present.

Mr. G. H. Pickburn also made application by letter to be placed on the Queensland register, and presented his certificate from the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. He has been informed that he will be registered on payment of the usual fee.

DEATHS.

The Deputy Registrar-General reported the following deaths, viz.:—

Thomas Henry Hughes, died 25th January, 1884; John Clowes, died 29th March, 1885; and James Williams, died 5th June, 1885. These names were ordered to be erased from the register.

The reading of letters from various other gentlemen respecting registration, and seeking information respecting examinations, then brought the meeting to a close.

The Board held another meeting on Tuesday, the 6th April, when the following gentlemen were present, viz.:—The president (Mr. Edward Taylor) in the chair, Dr. Ellison, Messrs. C. H. F. Yeo, A. W. Field, and J. H. Fitzgibbon.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINERS.

A good deal of discussion took place respecting the date for holding the first examination, and the appointment of examiners, when it was resolved that Dr. Ellison, Mr. Yeo, and Mr. Field be elected examiners for the current year, ending the 31st December, 1886, but the date for holding the first examination was not fixed.

The Board then adjourned, and agreed to meet again on Tuesday next, the 13th instant.

A list of the regulations made by the Pharmacy Board of Queensland, and approved by the Governor-in-Council, was published in the *Gazette* of 20th March.

The *Townsville Herald* devotes a column to an account of "the new shop which has been built in Flinders-street for Mr. W. Clayton, the well-known chemist." If the description is not overdrawn, Townsville has every reason to

be proud of this new architectural triumph, and Melbourne and Sydney chemists will have to look to their laurels, Mr. Clayton's stock and appointments being of a most elaborate description.

What is supposed to be a case of suicide occurred on the 17th March at the Exchange Hotel, Edward-street, Brisbane. A man named David Resse was found dead on the floor of a bedroom, having apparently poisoned himself, as pieces of torn paper were found bearing the words "strychnine—poison." The body was removed to the Morgue for a *post mortem*.

Dr. Kesteven's remarkable success in the treatment of typhoid fever with the eucalyptus oil is attracting great attention here, and I hear on good authority that he never loses a case under his plan of treatment.

I see by the late Rockhampton papers that Dr. Cripps and Mr. Wm. Henry Nock, chemist, have been causing a little excitement in the Rockhampton Police Court, inasmuch as Mr. Nock charged his employer, Dr. Chas. F. Cripps, with stealing a photograph, some letters, and other things. Of course, there's not much to be got out of the evidence for the prosecution as to the why and the wherefore Dr. Cripps took these things, and the evidence for the defence was taken with closed doors; why, I can hardly understand, unless the rumour is true that a divorce case is likely to come on shortly, in which the "chemist and his lady friend" will be required to take a prominent part. In the meantime, we are informed by the telegrams in yesterday's *Courier* that no bill has been filed in the case of *Regina v. Cripps*.

Drs. Lightoller and Dunlop, of Ipswich, have entered into partnership, and are going to start a retail chemist's business in conjunction with their practices, to be managed by Mr. Hall, lately from New South Wales.

A patent medicine shop has lately been opened in Queen-street, Brisbane, for the purpose of doing a cutting trade. It is not supported by either of the wholesale druggists of this town, and the retail druggists propose to start an opposition shop, selling things at cost price; but I don't think it will be worth their while. I may have more to tell you in my next.

Mr. Abraham Martin has been compelled to give up his business at 108 Queen-street, in consequence of the premises, and those adjoining, being required for the new theatre. He had great difficulty in procuring a temporary place lower down Queen-street, opposite Messrs. Alfred Shaw & Co.'s.

At a recent meeting of the committee of the Brisbane Hospital a letter was received from Mr. D. F. Brown, dispenser to the institution, tendering his resignation, on the grounds that he was about to be made the subject of an adverse motion at the meeting in question. It was moved that the resignation be accepted. Dr. Jackson said that he would not hold himself responsible for Mr. Brown as dispenser, the latter not being duly certificated. But he spoke very highly of his abilities, stating that Mr. Brown had had eight years' hospital experience, and that he knew more about hospital work than any chemist in town. After a brief discussion, the motion for the acceptance of the resignation was withdrawn, it being understood that the new committee would have the rules relating to the dispenser so altered that an uncertificated man should be ineligible for the position.

ANTIDOTE FOR SNAKEBITES.

The Chief Secretary has received from Herr A. Strauss-Collin, of Frankfort-on-the-Maine, a copy of a letter which he had addressed to the *Times*, accompanied by a strong wish that the information should be widely disseminated. The letter is as follows:—

"Your valuable paper would confer a great boon upon those dwelling in neighbourhoods infested with poisonous reptiles by disseminating the knowledge of an infallible antidote against snakebite. A German M.D., over twenty years resident in Brazil, writes about it to the *Heimath* :—' Since Dr. Lazerda discovered permanganate of potash to be an infallible antidote every farmer keeps some of it in his dwelling. The people now being fully convinced that its curative effects may be relied upon with absolute certainty, have come to regard snakebites as something perfectly harmless. Eight times I had the opportunity to test the efficacy of this invaluable antidote, and in the first instance in a most desperate case. A young nigger woman, while cutting sugar-cane, was stung by a *Jararaca pregosa*, which clung so tenaciously to the finger that it had to be killed still adhering to it.'

"Unfortunately two hours had elapsed already before the woman was brought to me in a most deplorable state. Blood was oozing already out of her eyes and mouth, the arm was swollen to an enormous size, and high grade fever had set in.

"I immediately injected 0·02 grammes of permanganate of potash under the skin of the lower arm, which treatment I repeated half-an-hour later on the upper arm. After two days the woman was at her work again. In the other cases, where I was unable to apply injections during the first hour, the work did actually suffer no interruption by the person bitten.

"The crystals of the permanganate of potash ought to be dissolved in water immediately before use. It lies within the province of the authorities that people ought to be made acquainted with the use of the moyshium injector for the purpose of being able to apply permanganate of potash in case of need. The knowledge of this infallible antidote ought to be spread far and near."

Western Australia.

WEST AUSTRALIAN PHARMACY LAWS.

In reply to numerous inquiries as to the laws affecting pharmacists at present in force in West Australia, we learn that legislation in the colony named has not extended beyond the passing of "The Poison Sale Act 1879."

Clause I. provides that "It shall be unlawful for any person to sell, or keep open shop for retailing, dispensing, or compounding poisons in any part of West Australia, unless such person shall be licensed thereto by the Resident Magistrate or Police Magistrate of his town or district, and shall conform to such regulations as to the keeping, dispensing, and selling of such poisons as may from time to time be prescribed by such Resident Magistrate or Police Magistrate."

Clause II. limits the articles which shall be deemed poisons to those enumerated in an accompanying schedule. They are:—(A) Arsenic and its preparations, prussic acid, cyanides of potassium and all metallic cyanides, strychnine and all poisonous vegetable alkaloids and their salts, aconite and its preparations, emetic tartar, corrosive sublimate, cantharides, savin and its oil, ergot of rye and its preparations; (B) Oxalic acid, chloroform, belladonna and its preparations, essential oil of almonds (unless deprived of its prussic acid), opium and all preparations of opium or of poppies.

Clause III. makes it "unlawful to sell any poison, either by wholesale or retail, unless the box, bottle, vessel, wrapper, or cover in which such poison is contained be distinctly labelled with the name of the article and with the word 'Poison,' and with the name and address of the seller." The poisons (A) must

not be sold to any person unknown to the seller unless introduced by some person known to him; and on every such sale the seller shall, before delivery, make or cause to be made an entry of the date, name and address of the purchaser, name and quantity of poison sold, and the purpose for which it is stated to be required, to which entry the signature of the purchaser and introducer shall be affixed. In the case of poisons ordered by letter or telegram, the letter or telegram must be affixed to the entry in lieu of signatures, the person delivering poisons so ordered to make and sign a memo. opposite such entry, setting forth the date when, and the person or post-office to whom or through which the said article was delivered or transmitted; and if the poison was delivered to any person, the receiver to sign such memorandum. The Act provides that the person on whose behalf any sale is made by any apprentice or servant shall be deemed the seller; "but the provisions of this section, which are solely applicable to poisons" (A) "or which require that the label shall contain the name and address of the seller, shall not apply to articles to be exported from Western Australia by wholesale dealers, nor to sales by wholesale to retail dealers in the ordinary course of wholesale dealing. Nor shall any of the provisions of this section apply to any medicine supplied by a duly qualified medical practitioner to his patients; nor apply to any article when forming part of the ingredients of any medicine dispensed by a person licensed under this Act, provided such medicine be labelled in the manner aforesaid with the name and address of the seller, and the ingredients thereof be entered with the name of the person to whom it is sold or delivered in a book to be kept by the seller for that purpose."

The Governor may, from time to time, by notice published in the *Government Gazette*, declare any article in such notice named a poison within the meaning of this Act; and after a lapse of one month from such publication the article so named shall be so deemed.

A West Australian statute, "The Medical Ordinance 1869," expressly exempts chemists and druggists from being compelled to register themselves under that Act.

NOTES OF ENGLISH SOCIETY MEETINGS.

At a late meeting of the Midland Counties' Chemists' Association Mr. W. Elliott, L.D.S., F.C.S., read a paper, "The Hygiene of the Mouth and Teeth." The essayist recommended the employment of carbolic and benzoic acids as antiseptics, and spoke unfavourably of salicylic acid and thymol. Charcoal, camphor, pumice, and Armenian bole were objected to on account of their causing brittleness. Mr. Elliott recommended carbonate of sodium and borax as additions to tooth powders and washes; and concluded by advising against the use of astringents, and agreeing with Prof. Milles, of Berlin, as to the value of a weak solution of mercuric chloride as a wash for preserving the teeth, and purifying the mouth by preventing the development of micro-organisms.

In a paper recently presented at a meeting of the Chemical Society, Dr. Griffiths demonstrated the remarkable effect of sulphate of iron upon leguminous and root-crops. A plot of potatoes undressed yielded three tons; dressed with artificial manure, a similar plot gave six and a half tons; another similar plot treated with artificial manure and sulphate of iron gave eight and a half tons.

The new Pharmacopœia would appear to have been regarded with small favour by the Sheffield Pharmaceutical Society, since a motion expressing approval of the efforts of the compilers failed to find a seconder.

At a late meeting of the Edinburgh Chemists' Assistants' and Apprentices' Association, also, the new Pharmacopœia was adversely commented upon by Mr. C. F. Henry, whose paper on "The Pharmacy of the New Pharmacopœia" was chiefly a protest against the non-inclusion of practical pharmaceutists among the compilers.

In presenting the prizes won by successful competitors at a meeting in connection with the South London School of Pharmacy, the secretary (Mr. Baxter) complimented the prize-takers upon their general politeness. "That," facetiously said Mr. Baxter, "was a virtue in most cases, but in theirs it was an especial virtue, because it would enable them to sell people what they did not want."

The Birmingham and Mineral Water Makers' Association's annual meeting agreed to appoint an analyst to report upon the Association's manufactures, in consequence of recent excise prosecutions. This action arose out of a confectioner having been fined for selling port and sherry which had been supplied to him by Messrs. Turley, Wall & Co. as "temperance wines," but which had been found to contain from 17·4 to 19·6 per cent. of proof spirit. It was said at the hearing of the case that the liquors in question, which were much stronger than ordinary champagnes, were largely affected by persons of teetotal professions.

At a meeting of the Liverpool Chemists' Association on 11th February, Mr. R. M. Sumner read a paper, in which he referred favourably, from personal experience, to the efficacy of cocaine as a remedy for sea-sickness, more especially in the form of lozenges which he obtained from Messrs. Meggeson and Co., London, containing one-twelfth grain of cocaine hydrochlorate, four of which, taken after sea-sickness had set in, produced magical effect. Mr. Sumner expressed the opinion that less than this quantity, one-third grain, will hardly answer in the majority of cases, and that "the centesimal doses of which we have read will not bear the test of practical experience."

New Remedies and Formulae.

DEAD SHOT FOR TAPE-WORM.—Bernard Persch says that after having given a fair trial to all the taenicides usually recommended, including kousso, male fern, pomegranate, etc., he found nothing to equal the following treatment, which is as certain as anything in medicine generally gets to be. In the morning early he gives a drop of croton oil dissolved in chloroform and the solution mixed with an ounce of glycerin. On retiring that same night the patient is given a mild laxative. The *Rev. des Scien. Med.* says that the treatment never fails, the taenia being rapidly and completely expelled.—*St. Louis Med. and Surg. Jour.*

FOR BALDNESS.—R. White liquid vaseline, 100 grms.; pilocarpine, 50 grms. Mix and dissolve with light heat. This solution makes the finest kind of a cosmetique. No "brillantine" can be compared to it; it glosses the hair. The idea of its use is derived from the fact that pilocarpine acts on the glands of the skin.—*Amer. Pharm.*

BARIUM SULPHIDE DEPILATORY.—Professor Bartholow says that barium sulphide is the best depilatory for ordinary use, its long continued action often resulting in the permanent removal of the offending hairs. He advises the following to be made into a paste with sufficient alcohol and applied, being allowed to remain until some pain is felt and then removed:—R. Barium sulphide, lime, of each, 1 drachm; powdered starch, 2 drachms.

GOLD CURE FOR MORPHINE HABIT.—Dr. A. B. Lyons has made an examination of "Dr. Keeley's Gold Cure," and denounces it as containing no more gold than is to be found in ordinary sea-water, and as largely consisting of the deadly atropine, against which he warns his patients.—*Drug. Cir. and Chem. Gaz.*

PULVIS ANTI-PHLOGISTICUS INFANTUM.—H. Hager recommends the following improvement of the popular German Kinderpulver (known as "Bismarck's Infant Powder") in all infantile ailments, especially teething:—Quinidine tannate, 20 parts; magnesium carbonate, 2 parts; white sugar, 120 parts; oil of fennel, 1 part; powdered liquorice root, 8 parts. Mix. Dose, half a small teaspoonful every half, one or two hours.—*Rundschau.*

CHINCHONA BARK.—The *Pharm. Jour.* (London) says:—"A silvery coating on the epidermis of the bark is one of the points to which a fictitious importance is attached. . . . The natural tendency is toward a preference for natural barks—the renewed bark and shavings, often of greater value, being rejected."

ANODYNE FOR CHILDREN.—The following colic mixture, according to the *Ind. Pharm.*, is used with success in the City Hospital, Indianapolis:—R. Sodium bromide, 4 scruples; oil anise, 2 drops; camph. tinc. opium, 32 drops; water, q.s., ad. 2 ounces. M. Sig. Teaspoonful every hour as needed; shake before using.

HOP BITTERS.—Hops, 4oz.; mandrake root, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; dandelion root, $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; buchu (long), 1oz. Put into jar; add one gallon boiling water; cover; strain after twelve hours; and add one-seventh part of alcohol to the product.

TEREBANE, which is a molecular modification of the spirit of turpentine, appears to have excited considerable interest in the old country. In the *British Medical Journal* of 12th December Dr. Murrell states that he has very successfully used it in cases of winter cough. He prescribes a dose of from 5 to 20 minims, on sugar.

SEDATIVE COUGH MIXTURE.—Dr. H. C. Wood gives the following as the most effective that he has ever used:—R. Potassii citratis, 3j; succi limonis, 5ij; syr. ipecac., 5ss; syr. simplicis, q.s., ad. 5vj. M. Sig. A teaspoonful four to six hours a day. Where there is much cough or irritation of the bowels add paregoric.—*Ther. Gaz.*

FRECKLES.—Dr. C. Heitzman, of New York, uses an ointment recommended by Wertheim, of Vienna:—R. White precipitate and subnitrate of bismuth, aa 5i; glycerin ointment, 3i. M. Apply a thin layer every other night for from four to six weeks. Dr. Wigglesworth, of Boston, has used for fifteen years: R. White precipitate and subnitrate of bismuth aa, 10 parts; vaseline, 100 parts. M.—*Quarterly Epitome.*

CHAPPED HANDS.—R. Zinc oxide, grs. xx; tannic acid; gum camphor, pulv. aa, grs. xv; glycerin, 3iv; tr. benzoin, 5ss. M. Apply locally. The glycerin may well be diluted a little with water.—J. W. Swift, M.D., in *N.E. Med. Monthly.*

HYPNONE, THE LATEST HYPNOTIC.—In an article on this new hypnotic the Philadelphia *Therapeutic Gazette* writes:—The drug itself is by no means a discovery of a very recent period, as Friedel had extracted it already in 1857 from the products of distillation of benzoate and acetate of calcium. He represented the drug by the formula of $C_6 H_5-C O-C H_3$. It crystallises in large flakes, becomes fusible at 15° (C.), boils at 98° (C.), and has a density of 1032. Its taste is hot, and its odour resembles that of bitter almonds and oil of wintergreen together. Four to ten drops taken at once are, according to Dujardin-Beaumetz's statement, sufficient to produce a refreshing and sufficiently long sleep. It is best taken in either of two preparations, as advised by Pierre

Vigier—viz., a syrup or elixir. The syrup of hypnone is prepared as follows:—
 R Hypnone, gtt. i; alcohol (90°), m_bxvi; syr. aurant. flor., m_blxxx; syr. laurocerasi, m_bxvi. The drop of hypnone is put in the alcohol, the syrups are then added, and the whole liquid is well stirred. A child would have to take at least double the quantity of the above mixture so as to get 2 or 3 drops, while an adult would require at least four such doses. The elixir is prepared as follows:—
 R Hypnone, gtt. i; alcohol (60°); spir. menth. pip., aā m_b. To be prepared in the same manner as the syrup.

TREATMENT OF ACUTE RHEUMATISM.—Dr. R. H. Fox states in the *British Med. Jour.*, 10th October, 1885, that in a severe case of rheumatism in which salicylate of sodium, potassium, quinine, colchicum, and liniments had all failed to relieve the fever and pain, the relief was immediate after sponging with cold water and quickly drying the skin afterward. Although this is no new treatment, it is one which requires some courage to practise, and yet may be well adapted to certain severe cases in which the salicylic remedies are ineffectual.

THE INFLUENCE OF CASCARA SAGRADA ON THE DIGESTIVE SECRETIONS.—Cascara sagrada has been experimentally studied by Dr. M. Tschelzow (*Centralb. für die Gesammte Therapie*, August, 1885), who comes to the following conclusions:—

First. Cascara sagrada is useless when a rapidly-acting cathartic is desired.

Second. It only acts as a cathartic when introduced into the stomach. When injected subcutaneously or directly into the blood vessels it produces no evacuation of the bowels.

Third. Cascara sagrada does not increase the secretion of saliva.

Fourth. It produces an increase in the secretion of gastric juice, which continues even during digestion.

Fifth. It increases both the pancreatic and biliary secretions.

These results were obtained when the drug was directly introduced into the stomach. When injected into the circulation, the animals rapidly passed into a condition of collapse, which soon proved fatal, or they recovered but very slowly; while the blood-pressure was rapidly reduced, even after previous section of the pneumogastrics.

SILVER POLISH—

R. Cretæ præcip	...	...	...	...	...	ʒ.
Aquæ ammoniæ,						
Aquæ,						
Sp. vini rect, aa	...	...	...	...	...	ʒv.
M.						

Apply with a sponge or soft woollen cloth, rubbing well; polish with chamois. This is the finest preparation I ever used for cleaning showcases, windows, mortars, graduates—in fact, any kind of glass or silver ware.

For cleaning graduates it is superior to soap or soda.

To clean mortars from iodoform, mix a little chlorinated lime in the mortar to a thin paste with diluted sulphuric acid, let stand a few minutes, and wash with water.—*The Druggists' Circular and Chemical Gazette*.

NEW ODOURS.

FROM the *Druggists' Circular* (N.Y.) of February we extract the following formulæ for new odours:—

OCEAN BREEZE.—Triple extr. of rose, 160 parts; ext. of jasmine, 160; ess. of ylang ylang, 160; do. sandal, 160; do. patchouly, 160; do. vetivert, 160; do. ververine, 40.

LOVE KISSES.—Extr. of violets, 200 parts; do. rose, 200; do. tuberose, 200; do. tonquil, 200; ess. of ambergris, 100; do. musk, 100.

HER MAJESTY BOUQUET.—Ext. of orange flowers, 300 parts; do. tuberose, 200; do. tonquil, 100; do. violets, 100; do. rose, 100; ess. of ambergris, 50; do. musk, 50.

MAY BLOSSOM.—Ess. of orris, 500 parts; triple ext. of rose, 250; ext. of jasmin, 100; ess. of ylang ylang, 100; do. ambergris, 25; oil of orange, 10; do. citron, 20; do. neroli, 5.

HARRON.—Ext. of cassia, 240 parts; do. orange flower, 240; do. jasmin, 200; do. rose, 120; do. reseda, 120; ess. of ambergris, 15; do. musk, 15; oil of bergamot, 10.

FOREST FLOWERS.—Ext. of orange flow, 320 parts; do. tonquil, 160; do. acacia, 160; do. tuberose, 160; do. Spanish elder flow, 160; tr. of benzoin, 30; ess. of ambergris, 5; do. musk, 5.

ESS. BOUQUET DUBELLE.—Triple extr. of rose, 500 parts; extr. of violets, 300; ess. of ylang ylang, 100; do. ambergris, 80; oil of bergamot, 15; do. neroli, 5.

ELITE.—Extr. of tonquil, 200 parts; do. rose, 160; do. tuberose, 160; do. reseda, 160; do. jasmin, 160; ess. of ambergris, 160.

WOODLAND FLOWER COLOGNE.—Alcohol, 80°, 780 parts; triple ext. of rose, 75; ext. of violets, 50; do. jasmin, 25; do. acacia, 25; ess. of musk, 25; oil of bergamot, 6; do. lemon, 6; do. neroli, 4; do. orange, 2; do. sandal wood, 2.

YOSEMITE FLORAL COLOGNE.—Alcohol, 80°, 750; triple ext. of rose, 100; ext. of tuberose, 50; ess. of ylang ylang, 50; do. ambergris, 30; oil of citron, 6; do. orange, 6; do. neroli, 5; do. bergamot, 2; do. rosemary, 1.

FIJI ISLANDS FLOWERS.—Triple extr. of rose, 300 parts; extr. of tuberose, 200; do. violets, 200; ess. of ylang ylang, 200; extr. of cassia, 50; ess. of patchouly, 50.

PRIDE OF MANILLA.—Ess. of ylang ylang, 480 parts; extr. of rose, 240; do. jasmin, 240; do. violet, 60; do. vanilla, 40; do. civet, 40.

Notes from Foreign Journals.

THE cost of printing and publishing the new edition of the British Pharmacopœia is stated to have amounted to £2638 during the past year. Up to the 31st of December last 13,522 copies of the work had been sold.

By a decree issued in Belgium last May it was made unlawful for pharmacists, or other persons authorised to supply medicinal compounds, to sell or expose for sale even the specialties approved by the Academy of Medicine, unless these were contained in perfectly closed wrappers, bearing the name of the article and the seal of the seller, who thus was to assume responsibility for the contents of the wrapper; whilst specialties that had not received the approval of the Academy were not to be sold, or exposed for sale, unless the seal of the maker was replaced by that of the pharmacist, and a label was attached bearing the pharmacist's name and address, and indicating the manner in which the preparation was to be used. From the *Pharmaceutical Journal* we learn that it is now admitted that there are difficulties of interpretation which have prevented the enforcement of these provisions, and their operation has therefore been formally suspended for the present.

IN proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Naylor, F.C.S., for a paper on "The Comparative Strengths of Certain Preparations of Ipecacuanha," read at the 22nd annual meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, the president said

that the paper might be summed up in one position, that acetic acid was the proper solvent for the active principle of ipecacuanha. This was known before, but it was well to have it formulated in such a distinct fashion. This principle had been carried into effect in the new *Pharmacopœia*, in which the direction was to form an acetous extract of ipecacuanha to be dissolved in sherry wine. This process was somewhat clumsy, and might be made a little more elegant, but it was satisfactory to have an authoritative direction of this kind.

AN English paper reports the death, at Northallerton, of a woman named Mary Ramshaw, through belladonna administered to her by mistake. The deceased, who had received a fracture of the thigh in a street accident, was ordered a mixture to take, as well as embrocation with which to rub the injured limb. Her daughter gave her a dose of medicine, when she instantly became convulsed, and in the course of about ten minutes died, the daughter having in the meantime discovered that she had taken the dose from the wrong bottle, the two standing on the same table. The surgeon in attendance stated that, although the embrocation contained a very strong preparation of belladonna, and was poisonous, he did not think it necessary to place any label on the bottle to that effect to warn persons of its nature. The jury, however, held a contrary opinion, and, in giving their verdict that the deceased was poisoned by belladonna administered to her by mistake, added that the medical man was not free from blame in the matter, and that there ought to have been something about the bottle to indicate the dangerous nature of the contents.

IN a recent address to the London School of Pharmacy Students' Association by Professor Redwood reference was made to the future need for the possession of chemical knowledge by those engaged in the practice of pharmacy, and the Professor, speaking with all the advantage of long experience and special acquaintance with the subject, gave very decided expression to his belief that the application of chemical knowledge to the art of pharmacy is destined to replace much of what has hitherto constituted the chief art involved in the production of galenical preparations.

It is stated that the proprietary medicine trade of the United States amounts to over £5,400,000 annually. Two millions of this goes in advertising, the retail vendors take £2,000,000, and the proprietors claim the balance for profits and expenses.

THE *Pharmaceutical Journal* of 6th February, in a sub-leader, gives an outline of the provisions of the Amended Pharmacy Act of Victoria 1885. The article concludes with the following remarks:—"The necessity of establishing provisions for ensuring the educational training of pharmaceutical students antecedent to the time when they present themselves for examination has evidently been appreciated by pharmacists in Australia, and the provisions of the new enactment are wisely devised for achieving this most essential condition of pharmaceutical advancement. The measures adopted are essentially the same as those which the Council of the Society has sought to bring into operation through the amended bye-laws, and it is impossible to avoid a certain feeling of chagrin at finding ourselves anticipated in the carrying out of such an obvious necessity. However, Australia has now shown the course of action that has to be taken, and it will be to our discredit if we do not at least promptly follow the example."

SIR JAMES PAGET, who has traced the fortunes of 1000 medical students, finds that 23 of the number achieved distinguished success; 66 were also successful, though in a lesser degree; 507 made a living; 124 were scarcely so fortunate; and 56 failed utterly. The rest either died or abandoned the profession soon after entering it.

THE trial of Mr. Am Ende, of New Jersey, whose mistake in dispensing morphine for quinine resulted in the death of two young ladies, has terminated in an acquittal on the ground that there was no criminal negligence. The evidence was, however, very instructive as to the worthlessness of merely mechanical safeguards alone. It appears that the bottle from which the morphine was taken bore two red poison labels. But the druggist, whilst dispensing the prescription, was also engaged in carrying on a conversation with the prescriber as to the relative value of grams and grains and other subjects, and, as he himself admitted, he had only a vague recollection of putting up a bottle on the shelf and pushing it against the wall, but did not remember taking it down at all.

A SOMEWHAT sensational statement was made by Dr. Dujardin-Beaumetz at the meeting of the French Academy, on the 27th of January, respecting a substance that has been supplied under the name of "hopeine," and represented to be a narcotic principle extracted from the hop. Dr. Beaumetz said that, being desirous of experimenting with the new remedy, he obtained a supply, taking care to ensure its authenticity, but found that the sample presented all the characteristics of morphine, differing only in odour. He concluded his statement by putting forward in explanation three alternative hypotheses—that "hopeine" presents the same reactions as morphine, or that the wild hop of America contains morphine, or that under the name of "hopeine" foreign druggists are sending into France morphine to which the aroma of the hop has been imparted. Dr. Beaumetz himself thinks the last hypothesis is the most probable.

WE have received a copy of the Calendar of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, from which we learn that the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists now includes 275 names, 24 having been added during 1885. The Society itself numbers 71 members, 16 of whom are original members named in the Act of 1875 as first constituting the Society.

Notes and Abstracts.

A NEW METALLOID.—The discovery of a new non-metallic element is announced by Herr C. Winkler, for which the name "germanium" is proposed. The new metalloid is said to have been found in a mineral from Freiberg, known as "argyrodite," rich in silver.

PROPORTION OF PHARMACISTS TO POPULATION.—A Philadelphia specialist gives the following table designed to show the proportion of pharmacists to the population in different countries:—United States, one pharmacist to every 1810 persons; Canada, one pharmacist to every 2425; England, one pharmacist to every 4510; Italy, one pharmacist to every 2500; Austria, one pharmacist to every 17,000; Hungary, one pharmacist to every 14,500; Prussia, one pharmacist to every 9360; Switzerland, one pharmacist to every 7800; France, one pharmacist to every 6300; Holland, one pharmacist to every 4590.

MR. J. D. ALLMANN, associate of the Pharmaceutical Society, London, states that eucalyptus oil (*E. globulus*) is far less irritant and poisonous than carbolic acid, which it has to a great extent replaced as a surgical dressing. Mixed with iodoform it can be employed in veterinary surgery with manifest advantage. Not only do these two agents render the discharge pure as they come in contact with the dressing, but, owing to the great volatility of the two combined, keep the affected part continually bathed with antiseptic vapour. Mr. Allmann prepared a gauze saturated with 10 per cent. of iodoform and 20 per

cent. of eucalyptus oil, which he introduced at the Veterinary Congress, Birmingham, in August last. He states that it is valuable for wrapping round ill-conditioned wounds, promoting cicatrisation. Recent cuts and severe lacerations are quickly healed by this means. Mr. W. A. Taylor, F.R.C.V.S., of Manchester, uses a cord, silk, and tape saturated with the same solution for stitching wounds, which are said to be thus more quickly healed. The following ointment for veterinary purposes is recommended:—Oil of eucalyptus, 1 part; iodoform, in powder, 1 part; hard paraffin, 2 parts; soft paraffin, 2 parts. Keep well covered and in a cool place.

Correspondence.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SALE OF POISONS ACT.

To the Editor of the Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.

SIR,—As a member of the Pharmacy Board, I am frequently asked why more vigour is not exhibited in protecting the interests of druggists by the detection and prosecution of those who vend prohibited articles in the vicinity of established pharmacies, and there is no doubt but that a general feeling exists that the enforcement of "The Sale and Use of Poisons Act" by the Board is feeble and perfunctory.

Unfortunately, there is some truth in these complaints, although the default is a matter for which the Board is not responsible. The answer, of course, is that the funds available for this purpose are very small, and quite inadequate to defray the expenses of a properly organised system of any magnitude, owing to the fact that when convictions are obtained the costs awarded by the magistrates are usually insufficient to cover one-half the expense incurred in obtaining them.

With a view, therefore, to eliciting the ideas of the trade as to the best way of meeting the difficulty, I would throw out the suggestion that a fund, to be called "The Chemists and Druggists' Protection Fund," be formed in connection with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia for the purpose of guaranteeing the Board against loss in the event of its obtaining convictions and not being awarded sufficient costs to defray the expenditure involved. A small annual contribution from each chemist would provide an auxiliary fund which, added to the sum already under the control of the Board, would render it possible to systematically and thoroughly enforce the law throughout the colony.

Trusting that others may be induced to publish their views on this subject
—I am, &c.,

H. T. TOMPSITT,
Hon. Treasurer Pharmacy Board.

Answers to Correspondents.

J. M., Ipswich, Queensland.—The information as to the charges for dispensing, &c., can be obtained from the Price List issued by the South Suburban Chemists' Association. It is a handy little book, and can be procured from any of the wholesale druggists; price 1s. For ordinary dispensing and the making of pharmaceutical preparations clean filtered rain-water answers every purpose; for solutions of morphine, atropine, &c., pure distilled water is indispensable, also for nitrate of silver solution. Water can be easily distilled with a clean iron "drum," to which is attached a condensing worm, made of block-tin, or a Liebig's condenser. *Vide* any work on chemistry or pharmacy.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

THE *Municipal Service Record* for 27th March is an excellent number of this well conducted journal. The subjects dealt with editorially are the Ministerial programme, the decentralisation movement, the modern pillory, the telegraph and telephone, and the Factories and Shops' Act. In addition to these articles, the journal contains a vast amount of information relating to municipal councils, boards of health, irrigation, water and harbour trusts, gas and tramway commissions, &c.

In the *Victorian Naturalist* for April Messrs. S. B. Gregory, LL.M., and A. H. S. Lucas, M.A., continue their account of a trip to Wilson's Promontory overland; and another instalment is given of the paper on "The Habits of Native Birds," read by I. Batey before the Field Naturalists' Club on 18th January. The present number concludes the second volume of this interesting little journal.

The *Year Book of Pharmacy*, from the British Pharmaceutical Conference.

Copies of the *Illustrated Handbook of Victoria* and *Official Catalogue* issued by the Commission for distribution in the Victorian Court at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, from the president of the Commission.

A copy of the "Pharmacopœia Collegii Regalis Medicorum, London, 1851," presented to the library by Mr. H. T. Tompsitt.

THE REDWOOD TESTIMONIAL FUND.

WITH a view of forwarding contributions to this fund, a subscription list has been opened, which is limited to 10s. 6d. from each subscriber.

The following amounts have been received. The list will be closed on the 30th April next:—

Amount already acknowledged ...	...	...	£	13	2	6
R. J. Fullwood	...	...	...	0	10	6
J. D. Evans ...	...	...	...	0	10	6
T. H. Walton	...	...	...	0	10	6
H. Gutheil	...	...	...	0	10	6
H. Shillinglaw	...	...	...	0	10	6
G. E. Treen ...	...	...	...	0	10	6
F. P. Chegwidden	...	...	...	0	10	6
A. Wallworth	...	...	...	0	10	6

Subscriptions may be forwarded to Mr. H. Shillinglaw at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, Melbourne, and will be acknowledged in this journal.

Legal and Magisterial.

JAMES E. STEWART, formerly dispenser at the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum, was charged at the Police Court, Hotham, on the 20th March, with feloniously marrying Miss E. Stitt on the 6th of January last, at St. John's Church of England, Melbourne, his first wife being then alive. Prisoner resigned his position at the asylum, with the intention of commencing business on his own account at West Melbourne. His first wife, who lives at Brunswick, having heard of the second marriage, appeared on the scene, with the result that he was arrested. The bench remanded prisoner, bail being allowed.

POISONING CASES.

A MAN named David Cutter, thirty-nine, residing at the corner of Spencer and Dudley streets, attempted to commit suicide on the 10th March by drinking the contents of a 2oz. bottle of laudanum.

An inquiry was held at South Melbourne, on the 27th March, by Dr. Youl, concerning the death of Albert Ruby Boyes, a chemist's assistant, aged 27. The deceased had been drinking to excess lately, and was expostulated with by his employer on the evening of the 24th March. Mr. Charles Pearson, a builder, living at Albert Park, said that he met the deceased near his home on Friday, and, seeing that he was not sober, asked him to go in and sleep. The deceased agreed to do so, and took about a teaspoonful of a powder, which he said would take off the effects of the drink. After he had been sleeping a short time he began to breathe heavily, and to assume a peculiar colour, and as he could not be roused Dr. W. C. Sparrow was called in, and found him just dead. The symptoms were those of morphia poisoning. The verdict of the jury was that Boyes died from the effects of a dose of morphia, taken by himself whilst intoxicated.

OBITUARY.

DEATH OF MR. HENRY SUGDEN EVANS.

THE news of the death of Mr. Henry Sugden Evans, which took place at Canada in February last, will be received with regret. The deceased gentleman was formerly connected with a well-known house in Liverpool, and it was while located in that city that he first especially earned the goodwill of pharmacists, being a prominent worker among them and one of the founders, and for many years a prominent member, of the Liverpool Chemists' Association. He was successively member of the council, vice-president, and president of the Pharmaceutical Society. Proceeding to America on business connected with his firm, he was for some time settled there, and in 1884 he accepted the position of Chief Public Analyst of Canada. Mr. Evans was a valued and frequent contributor to the scientific literature of the Liverpool Chemists' Association and the British Pharmaceutical Conference. At the general meeting of the Liverpool Chemists' Association, held on 25th February last, the Association's indebtedness to Mr. Evans was very feelingly referred to, most complimentary reference being made not more to the deceased's scientific abilities than to his charm of manner and kindly disposition.

Personalities.

MR. W. J. WATKINS (Messrs. Evans, Lescher and Webb) is at present in Melbourne.

MR. WILLIAM MERCER, of Daylesford, has been enjoying a well-earned holiday in the metropolis.

MR. THEODORE ERNST has purchased the business of Mr. Carl Gadcke, at 381 Brunswick-street, Fitzroy.

WE have received from the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain a copy of the "Register" for the year 1886.

MR. N. PUTTMAN will shortly open a new pharmacy at Albury, and is now engaged, we are informed, in fitting up the premises.

MR. EDWARD WRIGHT, connected with the laboratory of Messrs. Elliott Bros., Sydney, has been on a visit to Melbourne to recruit his health and pick up new ideas.

THE business of the late Mr. F. A. Dunn, Burwood-road, Hawthorn, is being carried on by his widow, under the management of Mr. H. A. M'Kay.

MR. T. B. JONES, for some years past managing assistant to Mr. C. R. Blackett, Fitzroy, has purchased the business of Mr. R. J. Fullwood, at 59 Barkly-street, Carlton.

MR. J. L. ADAMS, J.P., of Emerald, Queensland, was recently presented with an address, signed by 75 of the principal residents of Emerald, on the occasion of his leaving that district.

MR. J. B. LILLIE MACKAY, a recent arrival in the colony, has been appointed teacher of practical and medical chemistry at Trinity College. Mr. Mackay will be assisted by Mr. Carl Dyring, B.A.

THE following books have been presented to the library of the Pharmaceutical Society by Mr. C. R. Blackett :—*Memoires et Observations de Chemie, De B. Pelletier (very rare)*, 2 vols ; *Dissertatio Physico-Chemica*, R. Lubbock.

AT the ordinary weekly meeting of the committee of management of the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum, held on the 4th April, Mr. A. M. Mort was appointed dispenser. There were seven applications for the vacancy.

NEW INSOLVENT.—Hugh Percy Beach, of Chapel-street, South Yarra, chemist. Causes : Ill-health, losses in mining speculations, and adverse judgment in the County Court. Debts, £122 15s. 5d. ; assets, £42; deficiency, £80 15s. 5d.

MR. R. M'LEAN, warehouse manager for Messrs. Elliot Bros., of Sydney, who recently visited Melbourne, after inspecting the College of Pharmacy expressed himself greatly pleased with the excellence of the arrangements for the convenience of students.

THE "Year Book of Pharmacy for 1885" has been received and distributed to all the members of the British Pharmaceutical Conference in Victoria. The hon. colonial secretary, Mr. H. Shillinglaw, will be glad to hear from any member whose copy has not reached its destination.

MR. IVEY, Agricultural Professor at the Canterbury College, New Zealand, who is at present in Melbourne, recently paid a visit to the College of Pharmacy, Melbourne. Mr. Ivey expressed himself as greatly pleased with the library and the general arrangements for the convenience of the students in the laboratory.

WE regret to record the death of Mr. Frederick J. L. Pownall, who, for some time, was with Mr. Thos. Longstaff, of Ballarat, and more recently with Messrs. Martin and Pleasance, Collins-street, Melbourne. Mr. Pownall was the second son of the Rev. Wm. Pownall, Shank Hill Rectory, county Kilkenny, Ireland, and died at the early age of 32.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTH.

WHEELER.—On the 26th March, at the Rookery, Alexandra, the wife of F. Wheeler, J.P., chemist, of a son.

DEATHS.

HOLDSWORTH.—On the 4th March, at Mollison-street, Sandhurst, Cate Jackson, infant daughter of J. H. B. and Louisa Holdsworth.

POWNALL.—On the 29th March, at Melbourne, Frederick James Lowe, second son of Rev. Wm. Pownall, LL.D., of Shank Hill Rectory, county Kilkenny, Ireland, aged 32 years.



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[VOL. I.

Original and Selected Articles.

A VISIT TO MESSRS. W. H. SLATER & SONS' MEDICINAL HERB GROUNDS.

It was with a certain amount of satisfaction the present writer learned that among Victorian industries the growth of medicinal herbs found a place, although not in sufficiently large quantity to figure in the statistics. And while that sense of satisfaction was somewhat marred by the fact that only one spot in this large colony contributed to that result, it was somewhat gratifying to know that the first, the only one as yet who had attempted it on a commercial scale, had made it a success so far. The industry may therefore be regarded as established, although in its infancy, giving promise of future development and inherent capabilities of expansion.

The grounds are at Box Hill, and the place is appropriately named Mitcham Grove, after Mitcham, in Surrey, where, as is well known, some of the largest concerns of this kind in the world are carried on. The proprietors are Messrs. Slater and Sons, the former of whom has had the benefit of sixteen years' experience at Mitcham, where not only the most approved methods and the most modern appliances are adopted, but in some cases the finest strains of medicinal plants are to be had. It will thus be evident that Mr. Slater was specially fitted, both from training and experience, for introducing such an industry into the colony, and from the connection he still maintains with his former employers he is able to introduce from time to time any new medicinal plant that may be worth trying here.

There is usually conjoined in the same establishment with the growth of medicinal plants the distillation of the essential oils, or attars, and the manufacture of perfumes. The distillation of eucalyptus oil has been carried on at Mitcham Grove for the past eighteen years, as well as that of other oils used in perfumery. But as it is with the medicinal herb branch we are concerned at present this need not be further noticed. The object of our visit, in fact, was to see what medicinal plants had been tried to be grown on a commercial scale, and how they had succeeded in their new home. To cultivate such plants successfully required special skill and knowledge of their requirements, and, after all, the heat and moisture, the soil and climate, might not have proved quite to their liking. It is only after actual trial that success can be predicted, and in this paper I will point out the more important and profitable medicinal plants which have stood the test and done well in this part of Victoria.

It is but fair to add that Mr. Slater received us with true English hospitality, and his readiness to impart information was only equalled by his ability to do so. He would like to see the industry take root in the colony and become established as one of the minor industries. There are just now plenty

of men at Mitcham, Surrey, with the requisite skill, ready to come out, and a judicious expenditure of capital would do the rest. Of his own permanent staff of five men, three are from that district.

Mr. Slater has not hitherto aimed at producing medicinal products in such quantities as to be available for export. He finds a ready sale for all that he can produce in Melbourne, and his establishment is not adapted for extensive operations. The buildings are the work of his own hands, and he carries on his distilling and other operations by simple yet effective means. The question of labour has always to be considered in these colonies when it is proposed to enter into competition with home or foreign industries, and it must be confessed that the cheapness and abundance of labour there will give them a certain advantage; but, on the other hand, there may be counterbalancing advantages of soil and climate, which in some cases, as we shall have occasion to point out, may affect the result so that the product may be trebled, or more, in value.

M. Piesse has already called attention to the suitability of this colony for flower farming, and its superiority in some respects over that paradise of perfumes, the South of France; and M. C. H. Piesse, in his recent article on Perfumery, in the "Encyclopædia Britannica," does not fail to give Australia its due meed of praise where he says:—"Great praise is due to the pioneers of flower farming in the British colonies of South Africa and Australia, and especially to Colonel Talbot in Jamaica, whose efforts in this direction bid fair to meet with complete commercial success." But I think it deserves to be put on record that it is equally well adapted for the growth of a variety of medicinal plants as the result of actual trial. At least this has been proved to be the case at Mitcham Grove. Our first visit was paid there in November of last year, when many of the plants were in flower, and our latest last month. On the previous occasion one of the most striking sights in such a sequestered spot was the long stretch of opium-poppy blossoms, a crop which, as we afterwards learned, turned out well. It would seem that poppy-growing is carried on elsewhere in the colony, for, in the "Victorian Year-book" for 1884-85, ten acres are given as being under this crop, producing 190lb. of opium. The grounds are comparatively limited in extent, and do not by any means afford sufficient scope for testing, to the full, the paying capabilities of such an industry. Out of a 52-acre paddock only some 15 or 16 acres are under cultivation, so that the space at present available for any particular crop is very small indeed.

Besides the poppy may be mentioned, as growing and paying very well, henbane and stramonium, rue and tansy, mullein and squirting cucumber, Indian hemp and pennyroyal, peppermint and spearmint, and liquorice-root. Lavender does not grow quite so well as at Mitcham, Surrey, whence the stocks have been obtained; but it is believed that if the same labour and manure were expended upon it here, crops, at least equal in quantity, could be raised. The oil, however, is equal in quality to the home article, which has been justly pronounced to be "the finest in the world."

It would serve no useful purpose, and would be beyond the scope of the present article to notice at length the various kinds of plants, but I have thought it desirable to single out two or three for special remark. Peppermint, lavender, and liquorice are profitable crops, and deserve fuller consideration.

Peppermint (*Mentha Piperita*).—This is found to do very well here, but the extent to which it is grown is limited from the difficulty of obtaining suitable labour. At one time nine acres were under crop, but as hands could not be got to cut it then, the area under cultivation was reduced. That this plant is a desirable one to cultivate for the sake of its essential oil is evident

from the fact that it is so largely grown in England and America, and on the Continent of Europe. At Mitcham, Surrey, 219 acres were grown in 1864, and at Market Deeping, in Lincolnshire, 150 acres in 1881, and the annual yield of the oil from all parts of the world has been estimated at 90,000lbs.

Peppermint camphor, or menthol, is also greatly in demand, and is obtained from the oil at a low temperature, in crystalline form. This ought yet to become one of our colonial products. It would be interesting to compare the yield, as well as quality, of the oil produced here with that obtained at Mitcham. It is well known that this oil varies considerably in quality and commercial value, according to the conditions under which it is grown, that of Mitcham being nearly three times as valuable as the finest American. The season, too, affects it; usually in a warm and dry season the yield is 1oz. from every 5lb. of the fresh flowering plant, and if wet and cold it may be reduced one-half. Mr. Slater's estimate of the yield of the best peppermint is only a quarter of the first amount; so that it is probable the average here might still be raised.

Mr. E. M. Holmes, of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, gives the following interesting account of the mode of cultivation of the plant at Market Deeping, Lincolnshire:—"A rich, friable soil, retentive of moisture, is selected, and the ground is well tilled 8 to 10 inches deep. The plants are propagated in the spring, usually in April and May. When the young shoots from the crop of the previous year have attained a height of about 4 inches, they are pulled up and transplanted into new soil. They grow vigorously the first year, and throw out numerous stolons on the surface of the ground. After the crop has been removed, these are allowed to harden, or become woody, and then farmyard manure is scattered over the field and ploughed in. In this way the stolons are divided into numerous pieces, and covered with soil before the frost sets in. If the autumn is wet, they are liable to become sodden, and rot, and the next crop fails. In the spring the fields are dressed with Peruvian guano. In new ground the peppermint requires hand weeding two or three times, as the hoe cannot be used without injury to the plants. The average yield of peppermint is about 165 cwt. per acre. The first year's crop is always cut with the sickle, to prevent injury to the stolons. The herb of the second and third year is cut with scythes, and then raked by women into loose heaps ready for carting. The field is then gleaned by boys, who add what they collect to the heaps. The plants rarely yield a fourth crop on the same land. The harvest usually commences in the beginning or middle of August, or as soon as the plants begin to flower, and lasts for six weeks, the stills being kept going night and day."

Lavender (*Lavendula vera* D.C.)—The growth of lavender is also much restricted on account of the deficient labour supply. Nearly three acres were once planted. In Surrey there are about 300 acres under cultivation, while at Market Deeping it has been given up on account of a fungus attacking it. As the plants at present do not produce seed, propagation is effected by slips. It is very noticeable how dependent the yield of oil is upon the weather at home. The average amount is from 12 to 30lbs. of oil per acre, but if the weather is wet and dull, instead of dry and sunny, about the time of flowering the yield may be reduced one-half. This colony has the advantage of a more equable climate and a greater amount of sun, so that the chances are in its favour. As a matter of fact some of the oil produced here has been considered superior to the finest yet obtained anywhere. The soil, too, is of the right sort, being a sandy loam, with a calcareous subsoil, where it is grown. Considering that the best French oil is only worth about one-sixth of the English article, and that here the conditions

are so favourable for its production, there can be no doubt that, if its cultivation were gone into with energy and on an extensive scale in a suitable soil and situation, the results would prove satisfactory.

Liquorice (*Glycyrrhiza glabra*) is another crop which grows very well, but, as it requires a good deal of labour, it is only grown on a very limited scale. A good price is obtained for the roots, and when it is considered that an acre may sometimes yield three or four tons, the profit is undoubted. A fertile soil is required, and plenty of good manure. The roots contain the ordinary liquorice, or sweet juice, and in order to get them up deep digging is required. The land is trenched to a depth of three feet or so to reach the roots, which have sometimes gone to a depth of even seven feet at Mitcham Grove—possibly showing that the supply of manure was deficient when they had to travel so far for plant-food.

The supply of manure, as well as labour, is seen to be an important factor in the growth of these plants. Mr. Slater has not only experimented on the growth of particular plants, and found out for us those which thrive and those which do not, but he has tried the effect of different manures on various crops, and thus, by dear bought experience, acquired information which might prove valuable to others. The general results can only be noted now, but such experiments are well worthy of publicity in all their details, since they constitute a fund of information upon which those embarking in the business can always draw, and perhaps save needless expenditure.

He found, for instance, with the plants I have selected, that bone-dust alone did not produce good results, but superphosphate did, while Peruvian guano and bone-dust together suited better still. Farm-yard manure was very valuable, but combined with Peruvian guano and bone-dust did best of all. These are only general results, without quantities, but they may prove of general interest, as showing that the railway may overcome the difficulty of procuring manure to a certain extent. With the cost of manure about double, and that of labour in some cases treble the amount at home, the aim should be mainly, for some time to come, rather to supply ourselves than compete with others in a foreign market.

There was much more learned from our visit than I can convey now to the reader, but this much will be patent—that our genial southern land is well adapted by nature for the growth of a variety of medicinal plants. The success which has attended Mr. Slater's efforts, with all the difficulties incident to the starting and carrying on a new industry, proves what might be done were such efforts multiplied and extended. But even in such small beginnings I can foresee the promise of greater things, and it seemed to me somewhat suggestive, if not prophetic, of the future of Victoria that in what was not so long ago a wilderness, not only corn and wine, but oil, did abound—not only the celebrated oil from its native eucalyptus, but oil from such old favourites as the lavender and the peppermint. I felt as I turned my steps homeward that it would be well for the colony and its people to have dotted here and there over its vast expanse a few such spots as Mitcham Grove, but on a more extended scale, where the plants which minister to man's luxury, or alleviate his pain, or infuse fresh vigour into him, might grow and flourish like the land itself.

D. M'ALPINE.

THERE are said to be 5000 patent medicines of American concoction now on the market, and the trade amounts to 22,000,000 dollars per annum. Of this 10,000,000 dollars are expended in advertising, and the net profits are set down at 5,000,000 dollars.

PHARMACY IN COUNTRY AND TOWN.

BY "PILA."

"THE other fellow up the street" is quite as powerful for evil in Victoria as at home. That "other fellow" appears to be a most scheming and dangerous citizen until you have made his acquaintance, and then, presto! you find that, greatly to your astonishment, he resembles in no small degree a host of good fellows you have known.

Why are we, as a body, so afraid of a competitor? I can't give an answer, but perhaps very often it is the inward consciousness of a weak point in our armour. Don't, oh! don't, brother chemists, allow "the other fellow" to disturb your peace of mind, don't allow him to spoil your digestion, and don't by any means allow him to keep you inside and behind your counter 15 hours out of the 24, in mortal dread lest he should get one of your customers by keeping open a little later. As Mr. Mantalini pathetically observed, it makes life "one demd horrid grind."

After this little outpouring, I will return to the subject, and to the first in the series of my accidental country acquaintances who was the daily victim of the man up the street. The town, which could well support two chemists, fortunately was supplied with that number only. Perhaps the population did not exceed 4000, but it was the true market centre of a rich grazing and agricultural district. The bigger man—not physically, but in the sense of having the more imposing establishment—not only sold drugs, but very wisely, as I thought, a great many etceteras. Following my usual custom, I, after making a few small purchases, ventured the feeler, "I suppose you shut here at about six or seven, the town appears so quiet in the evening?" "Oh, no," was the quick reply, "we shut at the usual time." "And what hour is that?" I continued. "Half-past ten every night except Saturday, and on that night a little later. 'Tis true we don't do much after seven," he went on to say; "but that other fellow up the street keeps open even later." Now, here was a man experienced in his business, well educated, and apparently in easy circumstances, a slave to the narrowest and most barbarous trade jealousy.

Both these gentlemen were pleasant fellows, superior in most respects to their fellow-townsmen, and could have been as happy as "birds in a nest" if once the barrier of trade jealousy had been overcome. Prices and hours could have been regulated, in fact an easily-worked little trades' union might have been established. It is well to remember that when, through long confinement, we become paralytic or idiotic, we shall get neither remedy nor sympathy.

To an Englishman who for years has worked in big cities the wild freedom of the Australian bush is a revelation of a most delightful kind; and amongst the hills and dales of Victoria are to be found scenes of beauty equal to anything in Great Britain, though the flora and fauna are so utterly dissimilar to ours that they hardly seem to belong to the same planet. But accidents will happen even in those lovely woods, and the chemist sometimes benefits. For a slight injury received whilst hunting one day I found it necessary to visit a small township a few miles away from my home in the mountains. Here one dispenser of drugs reigned supreme. From the arrangements of his establishment—a cross between a doctor's shop in a London back street and a village chemist in Cornwall—I at once jumped to the conclusion that the proprietor had for reasons best known to himself, abandoned the practice of medicine and surgery for the more humble occupation he then followed. Such a proceeding, I am given to understand, was a possibility in Victoria some years ago, but now,

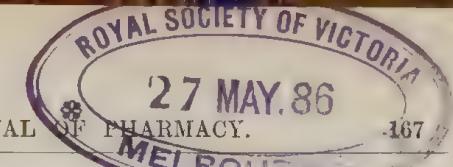
thanks to an enlightened Pharmacy Act, our profession is not made the receptacle for "failures" from another.

My requirements at the time were few, but, owing to primitive arrangements, or, rather, lack of any, the order, "An ounce of tannin and glycerine, please," created quite a flutter. A girl was called to search for a bottle, then ordered to clean it. This took so much time that the proprietor went in search of the damsel, who explained, apologetically, that she had to use soda. The bottle secured, the operation of "making" the article had to be gone through—none in stock. Whilst this was doing I glanced around. Half-empty winchesters on the topmost shelf, *sans* stoppers, and *sans* labels in many cases, rich with the dust of many summers, showed the doctor's shop. A shelf below contained here a bottle one-quarter full of some tincture, whilst its neighbour had perhaps an ounce of some essential oil, and both getting the full benefit of the hottest part of the pharmacy, a sight to make the (pharmaceutical) angels weep. Lack of polish, lack of order, lack of energy, were the marked characteristics of this "hall" (for "hall" it was dubbed) and the general disorder contrasted in a ludicrous manner with the solemnity of the "proprietor." After getting four lines in as many bottles of different brands, and with a bit of writing paper stuck on for label—no printing indulged in—I struck out for home, pondering meanwhile upon the ease with which one could live in this lovely land of Australia.

If the chemist in the country districts would, as he does sometimes (but rarely), imitate the activity and push of the storekeeper, he could, in my opinion, rapidly realise a competency.

(*To be continued.*)

PALATABLE THERAPEUTICS.—An excellent article on this subject is contributed to the January number of the *Therapeutic Gazette*, Philadelphia, by Dr. Franklin H. Martin. Nowhere, he writes, is the strong hand of radical reform more needed than in therapeutics. Until lately it seemed to be a foregone conclusion that the old traditions, with their long lists of nauseous and incompatible boluses, infusions, decoctions, tinctures, extracts, powders, salts, pills, oils, blisters, &c., must be religiously guarded from the insinuating finger of reform. The present state of scientific thought, however, with its intense light, is gradually dispelling the fog of exclusiveness, and even in therapeutics we begin to feel that we are out of darkness. Dr. Martin discusses at considerable length the means by which practitioners can administer, and obtain all the effects of, their remedies without offending the most delicate palate, and concludes with the following summary, which will afford a fair idea of the scope of the paper:—1. Administration of the *alkaloids*, *neutral principles*, and other drugs of *small bulk* in *gelatin* or *sugar-coated granules*. 2. Administration of *solid extracts*, *crude drugs* of *small bulk*, and the various salts in *pills* of *gelatin* or *sugar* and *gelatin capsules*. 3. Administration of tasteless tinctures and other tasteless liquids alone or mixed in water. 4. Administration of the *oils*, *oleoresins*, *oleates*, and drugs soluble in oils in *elastic capsules*. 5. Administration of acids well diluted in sweetened and properly flavoured water. 6. Administration by hypodermic injection, by suppositories, by enemata, and by inunction. "Thus we have," adds the writer, "imperfect though it be, a system of palatable therapeutics. I am far from being entirely satisfied with it. I am convinced, however, that it is capable of being gradually developed to perfection. I believe it would be to the interest of our system, unsatisfactory as it at first might appear, if each of us would constitute himself a nucleus for a vigorous reform in this direction."



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Editorial.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SALE OF POISONS ACT.

UNDER the above heading we published in our last issue a letter from Mr. H. T. Tompsitt, hon. treasurer of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, and one of its members. Mr. Tompsitt referred to a common complaint that there was an apparent want of vigour in the prosecution of vendors of prohibited articles. Said our correspondent:—"There is no doubt but that a general feeling exists that the enforcement of 'The Sale and Use of Poisons Act' by the Board is feeble and perfunctory." While admitting this much, however, Mr. Tompsitt proceeded to exculpate the Board from the charge of being indifferent to the interests of pharmacists or the public, his answer being "that the funds available for this purpose (the detection and prosecution of offenders) are very small, and quite inadequate to defray the expenses of a properly organised system of any magnitude, owing to the fact that, when convictions are obtained, the costs awarded by the magistrates are usually insufficient to cover one-half the expense incurred in obtaining them." Mr. Tompsitt proposed, as a solution of the difficulty, the establishment of a fund in connection with the Pharmaceutical Society, to be called "The Chemists and Druggists' Protection Fund," to be supplied by annual subscription, by means of which the Board would be guaranteed against loss in connection with the energetic prosecution of delinquents, which would be possible under the proposed new state of the finances. In Mr. Tompsitt's words, "a small annual contribution from each chemist would provide an auxiliary fund, which, added to the sum already under the control of the Board, would render it possible to systematically and thoroughly enforce the law throughout the colony." This very opportune and practical suggestion needs little recommendation. A survey of the record of the prosecutions initiated by the Pharmacy Board during the past few years shows that the convictions have been by no means few in number. But while the amount of the fines inflicted enriched only the general revenue, the burden of the costs in unsuccessful cases fell altogether upon the Board, and, where convictions were obtained, the costs awarded only in very rare instances covered the expenses of the proceedings. In reply to a requisition upon this subject, the Government expressly declined to increase the Board's yearly grant, it being evidently the opinion that the matter was one in which

the profession was personally interested, and that its members should provide the wherewithal for what was considered to be their own protection. We believe this view to be untenable, and that the prosecution of unauthorised vendors of poisons is a matter of general, rather than of professional, interest. This position being forced upon the profession, however, it behoves its members to be up and doing in making the best of it. Therefore, we most heartily support Mr Tompsitt's proposal. It is said that pharmacists are often neglectful of their best interests, as witness the fact that quite recently the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain was forced to discontinue its opposition to the registration of objectionable trades marks owing to lack of funds. But we trust that the endeavours of the Board will not be hampered in the important work to which we particularly refer for the like reason. It may be hoped that the Government will presently be persuaded to subsidise the fund, whose establishment we advocate, if not to altogether relieve the subscribers. We know of nothing more likely to bring about this "consummation devoutly to be wished" than the prompt and general acceptance of Mr. Tompsitt's proposition, and the consequent energetic action of the profession on its own account. We shall be happy to receive subscriptions towards the fund in question.

THE BRITISH PHARMACOPÆIA AND SWEET SPIRITS OF NITRE.

THE *Pharmaceutical Journal* of 27th February gives a full report of the trial, at Liverpool, of a chemist charged with "selling two ounces of sweet spirits of nitre which was not of the nature, substance, and quality of the article demanded by the purchaser." In view of the recent publication of the *Pharmacopœia* for 1885, the particulars of this case present several features of interest to Australasian as well as to British pharmacists. For the prosecution, Dr. J. Campbell Brown, the analyst, said that he found the sample submitted to him (and which, it was proved, had been purchased at the defendant's shop) three-fifths of the recognised minimum strength, according to the *British Pharmacopœia* of 1885, and it was sought to prove that, as the work mentioned had been produced in compliance with and under the sanction of authority of certain Acts of Parliament, and was "intended to afford the members of the medical profession and those engaged in the preparation of medicine throughout the British Empire one uniform standard guide, whereby the nature and composition of substances to be used in medicine may be ascertained and determined," that an offence had been committed under the Sale of Foods and Drugs Act of 1875. For the defence, it was contended that there were two articles well known to the drug trade and to the public—one prepared, according to the old London *Pharmacopœia*, from a certain formula, and answering certain tests, and another called spirit of nitrous ether, mentioned in the *British Pharmacopœia*, prepared from different ingredients by a totally different process, and answering different tests; and that there was no statute which prevented the preparation and sale of the former, which had a large sale under the name of "sweet spirit of nitre," which was the name used by the inspector when asking for the drug in question. In support of this latter view, Professor Attfield, one of the three editors of the *Pharmacopœia*, after describing the difference between the two preparations, stated his opinion that the article supplied was of the nature, substance, and quality of the article demanded by the purchaser when he asked for sweet spirit of nitre, and, further, that it was the article commonly and very largely demanded by the public, and that it would be a very

serious thing if the sale of that article was interfered with. As regards the scope of the *Pharmacopœia*, Professor Attfield's evidence was to the effect that that work had for its object not so much the selection as the definition of substances which the physician prescribes, and that it did not come into force to supersede household drugs and remedies; that there were qualities of drugs and household remedies known to and demanded by the public, and sold by chemists, not included in the *Pharmacopœia*, which were not and could not be superseded by or in any way abolished or ousted by such a work; and that, indeed, the *Pharmacopœia* did not profess to do anything of the kind, nor was there any Act of Parliament investing it with such authority. It is scarcely necessary to say that, in view of such evidence, the summons was summarily dismissed; and it is not at all likely that the question involved will be again put to the test in an English court of law. In connection with the Professor's evidence there is one point to which it may be well to call attention. Being asked whether, if a physician ordered sweet spirit of nitre, he would not expect to get the British *Pharmacopœia* article, Professor Attfield replied: "No, I think not; he should expect the old article. If he wanted the new preparation he would probably order spirit of nitrous ether or *spiritus ætheris nitrosi*, which would properly describe it." It is a pity that a question of this importance should be left to "probabilities," and it would be a matter of satisfaction were some definite understanding arrived at on the subject between the physician and the dispenser.

PHARMACY IN DENMARK.

THE *Pharmaceutical Journal* for 6th March contains a report of a lecture delivered on 17th February, before the (London) Chemists' Assistants' Association, by Mr. S. R. Atkins, vice-president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, a brief *résumé* of which, giving, as it does, a most instructive account of the condition of pharmacy in Denmark, and the laws and regulations affecting it, may not prove uninteresting to Australasian pharmacists. The controlling authority in pharmaceutical affairs in Denmark is the Minister of Justice, and under him the Royal Board of Health is in function, in which two apothecaries have seats, and vote on all matters concerning pharmacy. Directions from the Board of Health have to be maintained by all pharmacies, and once a year every pharmacy in the country has to be visited by the medical authorities. A pupil generally must stay three and a half years in a pharmacy before he has served his apprenticeship, and when, after this period, he has passed his first examination, he is called *Examinatus Pharmacæ*; when, after a year and a half of study, he has passed his official examination, he is called *Candidatus Pharmacæ*; and when he has got a pharmacy for himself, *Apothecary Pharmacist*. Full particulars are given as to the examinations which have to be passed, which space will not permit of our quoting here, but which was briefly described by the lecturer as "a prolonged and thorough course of training, a complete curriculum, and subsequently a testing examination." Until the year 1872 the right to carry on a pharmacy was granted so that it became the property of the party concerned, permitting him to sell or cede the same to any qualified pharmacist who had passed his examination in pharmacy, and obtained the sanction of the Government. In the year mentioned a new order of things was introduced. All new pharmacies are now granted to the pharmacist personally, and when he dies, the pharmacy, like other Government offices, has to be applied for by qualified persons, although it is mentioned that the Government generally permits the widow of the deceased

to carry on the pharmacy with the aid of a dispenser till she dies. As a result of this change of system there are at present "saleable" and "unsaleable" pharmacies—83 of the former, and 52 of the latter, making altogether a total of 135, of which 22 are in Copenhagen. This city is specially favoured, inasmuch as chemists practising there must have obtained in examination the mention "Très bien," which is equivalent to "La grande distinction" in Belgium and other European countries. There is no possibility of a "cutting" competition in Denmark, a price current being fixed by the State, which has to be maintained, but which is said to be the lowest in all Europe; it being estimated that the Danes pay at the utmost no more than one-half as much for their prescriptions as is charged in England. It is strongly forbidden to give advice to patients in the pharmacy, and the prescriptions from the physician have to be dispensed exactly. As a consequence of this complete separation of medical practice from the pharmacy, we are told that "the physicians and apothecaries agree well together, and respect reciprocally each other's activity." In his concluding remarks Mr. Atkins stated, in reference to the Government inspection of pharmacies, that it was not regarded as objectionable; while, as regards the fixed tariff of prices, the low price was more than compensated, because the entire supply of medicine to the public was in the hands of the pharmacists. The dispensing was very large, and the transactions mostly for cash. It is not very surprising, therefore, to find that, after carefully weighing the *pros* and *cons* between the condition of pharmacy in Denmark and Great Britain, Mr. Atkins felt bound to pronounce in favour of Denmark.

LITTLE THINGS, BUT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.

THE *Druggists' Circular* (N.Y.) of March has an interesting article bearing the above heading, in which various points are insisted upon as essential to success in the pharmaceutical profession. The first of these is cleanliness, which is urged to be almost synonymous with pharmacy; and it is said that "it is next to impossible for an untidy man to make a good pharmacist." "By not over-crowding the counters and shelves, and keeping them clean," says the writer, "the convenience of the druggist is greatly contributed to. To be neat and clean requires one to be systematic, to have a place for each thing, and see that it is kept there. In doing this you can always put your hand on the desired article, and not keep the customers waiting unnecessarily; and, too, you know perfectly well how much of the article you have in stock, and when proper to replenish it."

Next, the value of politeness is insisted upon. "It is unnecessary to chat with customers on new business subjects, but answer politely such questions as may be asked, no matter how simple or even foolish they may appear. You may be sure a kind word often makes a friend—never an enemy."

"The position of the prescription counter in a store is a thing of great importance to the druggist, but which many continue to disregard. How often it is the case, more especially in small towns, that the prescription counter is so situated in the store that customers are able to converse with the clerk while compounding prescriptions!" The evil effects of this, it would seem, are too evident to require attention being called to them; yet this is not an uncommon thing even in this city; and even the fatal accidents which have happened from this cause do not seem sufficient to cause amendment.

"If the trouble were taken to keep a formulae or memorandum book, in which to keep formulas, notes, etc., how much time, trouble, and expense would

be saved! It is a good plan in making such things as tinctures, etc., to take their sp. gr. and record it in your memorandum book. This takes very little time and is no expense, any bottle serving the purpose, but it is a very good check on the preparation, not as to quality, but to show if different lots of the substance agree. Of course this would be of little value in judging outside preparations. But these little checks are very serviceable, and naturally will occur to any careful pharmacist, and with a little care good preparations and cheaper can be made with much less trouble than when made carelessly. Many reliable wholesale houses are now putting numberless pharmaceutical preparations on the market, and often the pharmacist finds it cheaper to buy his preparations from these than to make them. The physician often prescribes medicines of a particular house and the pharmacist is forced to keep such medicines in stock. But if the pharmacist keeps good standard preparations, it will not be long before the physician recognises the fact in his prescriptions. It should be the pride of every pharmacist to dispense as many of his preparations as possible, with due regard to profits, and not allow himself to become a mere vendor of drugs.

"It is unnecessary to call the druggist's attention to the importance of careful buying of stock, to buy from none but reliable houses, to do a cash business, and on no condition to go in debt. These things really are out of the sphere of little things; but by following honesty in all things, not for policy's sake, which is not honesty, but as a principle, and by strict economy, there should be profits even in the sharpest and keenest rivalry of trade."

THE DISPENSER AS OTHERS SEE HIM.

IN the course of an article upon the report of the inquiry instituted by Dr. Seaton into the accuracy of chemists and druggists in the dispensing of physicians' prescriptions, to which we referred in our last issue, the *London Daily News* observes :—

"The chemist and druggist is ordinarily an educated and intelligent man, and he is a professional man as well as a tradesman. He has a name and position to make or to uphold, and is conscious of the responsibilities which rest upon him. That his assistants occasionally give way to a lazy impulse to weigh out the drugs in a somewhat rule-of-thumb fashion is perhaps not an evil that is at all hours altogether within his control, but that such carelessness does not often extend itself to serious deviations we may gather from the already-mentioned fact that there were only two serious errors out of 30 cases. The dispensers at co-operative stores would appear to be more serious culprits, and this is probably due to the fact that the head dispenser is an anonymous servant of the stores, and takes less personal pride and pleasure in his work than does the ordinary pharmacist, while his subordinates, dispensing on what may almost be called a wholesale scale, have still less care or sense of responsibility. At all events, in the course of Dr. Seaton's investigation, they were shown to be three times more unreliable than the ordinary chemist and druggist. The 'drug company,' whatever that may be, would appear to dispense accurately only by accident; for only once in four times was it within the very liberal limit of 20 per cent. as regards the proportion of active ingredient, while the 'doctor's shop,' which still exists here and there in poor neighbourhoods, would seem to be also hopelessly unreliable, though it is fair to remember that only two attempts were made to test its accuracy."

Victoria.

PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA.

THE monthly meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria was held at the College of Pharmacy on Wednesday, 12th May, 1886.

Present—Messrs. Blackett, Brind, Francis, Tompsitt, and Strutt.

The president (Mr. C. R. Blackett) in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

An apology was received from Mr. Owen.

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION GRANTED.

George Mill, South Melbourne, certificate from Pharmaceutical Society, Great Britain, minor examination.

APPRENTICES' INDENTURES REGISTERED.

Bertie B. Ham, Ballarat, apprenticed to Messrs. Cornell and King, Ballarat.
John Joseph Bowen, Kerang, apprenticed to Mr. Douglas Atkinson, Kerang.

CERTIFICATE UNDER SALE AND USE OF POISONS ACT.

George Glenny, Glenlyon.

The proposed additions to the schedules to the Poisons Act were further considered, and the final list to be submitted to the Governor-in-Council for approval will be brought up at the next meeting of the Board.

THE EXAMINATION PAPERS.

Mr. H. T. Tompsitt's motion, that in future all examination papers be printed in the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy* after the examination, was discussed, and carried.

REPORTS OF PROSECUTIONS.

Several cases were submitted of infringement of the Amended Pharmacy Act 1885, and it was resolved that in each case prosecutions be instituted.

THE QUARTERLY EXAMINATIONS.

The questions for the quarterly examinations to be held on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th of June were submitted and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From the secretary of the Pharmacy Board of Queensland, forwarding copies of the regulations to the Pharmacy Act and the Pharmaceutical List for 1886. From Mr. C. E. Towl, Sydney, intimating that the Pharmacy Board of New South Wales declined to register him under the Major Examination Certificate of Victoria. In reference to this application, it was resolved that Mr. Towl be informed that the Board regret that they are unable to take any steps in the matter until some understanding with the Pharmacy Board of New South Wales is arrived at. Letters were received and dealt with from Messrs. Hobbs, Rundle, McCarthy, G. C. Powell, Dentry, E. L. Hall, and F. Taylor, which, with financial and general business, brought the meeting to a close.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

THE monthly meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia was held at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, on Friday, 14th May, 1886.

Present—Messrs. Brinsmead, Blackett, R. P. Francis, Kingsland, Nelson, Harrison, Tompsitt, Baker, Huntsman, Hooper, and Gamble.

The vice-president (Mr. James Brinsmead) in the chair.
The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

NOMINATION OF NEW MEMBERS.

The following new members, having complied with the necessary form of application, were nominated for membership :—

Mr. William Bassett Hall, Thames, New Zealand.

Mr. William Johnstone Bowen, 45 Collins-street, Melbourne.

The resignation of Mr. E. H. Jackson, late of Hamilton, now in England, and Mr. J. T. Kempson, of Dunedin, New Zealand, were received and accepted.

THE INTERCOLONIAL PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

The committee reported that the first circular in reference to the Conference had been issued, and forwarded to all the Pharmaceutical Societies and Pharmacy Boards in Australasia and New Zealand.

THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH HONOUR PRIZES WILL IN FUTURE BE GIVEN.

This matter, which was postponed from last meeting, was discussed at some length and finally agreed to.

PRESENTATIONS AND DONATIONS

Were received from Messrs. Harker, Moss and Stagg, of London, per Messrs. Rocke, Tompsitt and Co., and from Mr. Robert Nicholls, for the Museum; and from Messrs. C. R. Blackett, Graham Mitchell, F.R.C.V.S., and W. H. Potts, for the Library.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters from Messrs. C. E. Cook, W. H. Harrison, J. M. Main, D. Wilkie, C. E. Towl, and F. Forrest were received and dealt with. Financial business brought the meeting to a close.

SOUTH SUBURBAN CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.

It is now nearly three years since the chemists of the south suburbs of Melbourne met for the purpose of forming a local trade association, with the object of endeavouring to shorten the hours of business, and protecting the interests of trade generally. These objects are now reliable facts, and carried out to their full extent. The association is to be praised for the business-like way in which the transactions are conducted, and the strict uniformity of the closing rule. The unanimity that the re-unions have fostered has also been a great source of congratulation amongst the members. That the federal spirit is gaining ground is proved by a request from the brethren in Sydney for some copies of the published price-list and rules, on which to form a similar society. Another demand has been received from Brisbane for a similar purpose, and it is to be hoped that when these societies are established the relationship already commenced will be continued.

The next quarterly meeting of the South Suburban Chemists' Association will be held on Tuesday, the 1st June, at Carter's Star Hotel, when several propositions for the improvement of the regulations will be submitted, and it is to be hoped that there will be a full meeting of the members, as important matters are to be discussed. This is necessary to prevent any future objections. The meeting will be held at the usual hour, 9.30, and a circular will be forwarded to each member.

The Month.

A NUMBER of prosecutions under the Amended Pharmacy Act 1885 are now pending, some of which will be of unusual interest to pharmacists.

A TRANSLATION of the *Pharmacopœia of the Royal College of Physicians of London, 1836*, has been presented to the Library by Mr. C. R. Blackett.

THE *Pharmaceutical Journal* and the *British and Colonial Druggist* reprint from this journal Mr. Bosisto's article on "The Materia Medica of the Eucalyptus."

THE action against Messrs. Morgan Bros., for infringement of the copyright of the *Australasian Chemist and Druggist*, will, it is stated, be set down for trial at the present sittings of the Supreme Court.

MR. TOMPSITT's motion that all the examination papers used at the examinations at the College of Pharmacy be published in the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy* was carried at the last meeting of the Board.

THE botany students at the College of Pharmacy, with the lecturer, Mr. D. M'Alpine, F.C.S., visited the Botanical Gardens on the 7th instant, and enjoyed an instructive and entertaining morning's work.

MR. ALFRED H. JACKSON, the newly-appointed director and lecturer at the College of Pharmacy, Melbourne, left London in the R.M.S. *Tasmania* on the 22nd April, and may be expected to arrive about the 1st June.

WE are requested to correct a mistake in the name of one of the newly-elected members, whose name appeared in our last issue as Mr. B. Pineline, Temora, New South Wales, whereas it should be Mr. B. Pinchin.

WE are glad to learn that the proposed Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference, to be held in Melbourne on the 27th, 28th, and 29th of October next, is meeting with general approval. Already several favourable replies have been received.

THE REDWOOD TESTIMONIAL FUND.—The following additional subscriptions have been received since our last issue:—Messrs. A. H. Massina, John Geo. Smith, Benjamin Baker, C. E. Hirst, John Owen, Wiliam Colledge, Geo. Morrow, and F. H. Cooper.

THE ordinary quarterly meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia will be held at the College of Pharmacy on the 10th June next at 8 o'clock, at which Mr. Henry Francis has promised to read a paper. The quarterly supper will be held after the meeting.

A MEETING of medical men practising in the Ballarat district was held at Craig's Hotel on Tuesday, the 10th May, Dr. W. P. Whitcombe in the chair. It was resolved to form a medical association, and Drs. Whitcombe, J. Woinarski, W. Morrison, and J. M'Conochie were appointed a committee to draw up rules.

WE notice that a number of articles and reports of meetings, &c., have recently been abstracted from this journal without the slightest acknowledgment of the source from which they have been obtained. If this state of things is continued we shall be under the necessity of adopting the Parliamentary usage of "naming the offender."

IT is exceedingly satisfactory to find that the Pharmacy Board of Queensland are doing all in their power to carry out the Pharmacy Act in a thorough manner. They have adopted almost intact the regulations to the Pharmacy Act of Victoria, which will go a long way in settling the question of reciprocity of certificates.

LETTERS patent have been granted by the Attorney-General to Mr. James Alex. Pond, of Auckland, New Zealand, analyst, for an invention for the purpose of providing packages with an enamel or coating which will resist the action of liquids and other substances. It is applied to the surface of the material to be coated with great pressure, and at a high temperature.

THE first circular letter in connection with the Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference to be held in Melbourne on the 27th, 28th, and 29th October next has been issued. It contains the outline of the proposals to be submitted to the conference for discussion, and has been forwarded to all the pharmaceutical societies' boards in Australasia and New Zealand, with a request that it may be considered, and returned with any suggestions or additions that they may wish included in the programme not later than the 30th June next.

THE half-yearly meeting of the Australian Health Society was held at the Town Hall on Thursday evening, the 15th April; the president (Mr. Justice Higinbotham) in the chair. Dr. C. Rothwell Adam read an interesting paper upon "Some Causes of Infection." Dealing with the drainage of Melbourne, he urged that if open channels were retained they should be constructed of asphalt, so that the interstices might not become the receptacles of disease-breeding filth. The milk supply of the city was described as a great weakness. It should be placed under a stricter supervision, and dairymen should be licensed, and their premises be made subject to inspection. Mr. D. M'Alpine, F.C.S., read a paper entitled "A Plea for Sanitation," in which he urged educating the public in matters of sanitation. Dr. Bennie read a paper on "Tobacco Smoking," which favoured the moderate use of tobacco.

New South Wales.

IN the Inverell Police Court a few days ago, Mr. R. S. Millington, chemist, charged with having sold arsenic without having coloured it, as directed by the Poisons Act, was fined £3.

On the evening of 19th April the front windows of Mr. Charles Saunders' shop, 703 George-street, Sydney, were blown out by an explosion of gas. It appears that a composition gaspipe had been gnawed through by rats, and the gas rising to the lights in the window exploded. The meter, which was at some distance away, was immediately turned off, and no fire took place. The windows were blown out, and the stock and fixtures in the windows were damaged. The premises were insured, but we understand that Mr. Saunders had omitted thus to secure himself from loss.

Carl Von Bieren, the late manager of the powder works at Narrabeen, was brought up at the Sydney Water Police Court, on 21st April, charged with having fraudulently embezzled £19 4s. 7d., the money of the Australian Powder and Explosive Manufacturing Company. Mr. Hawkins (the private secretary of Von Bieren) had produced two receipts for £5 each, showing that these sums had been paid to Mr. Scott on account of the £19, the amount Mr. Scott had sued the company for. Mr. Wilshire, D.S.M., was of opinion that when the receipts were produced for £10, there would be no difficulty in accounting for the whole of the amount. The case was dismissed, and the accused discharged.

As a result of the new tariff proposed by the Government, Messrs. Elliott Bros., of Sydney, have issued the following notice with their price list, under date 7th April:—In consequence of the advanced duties proposed by the Government, please note alterations in prices. Should any of these prices be rescinded by Parliament, we will refund the extra amount charged.

At the April meeting of the Sydney Hospital Board Dr. M. S. O'Connor was elected honorary surgeon in the place of Dr. Woodward, and Dr. Ashwell was re-elected honorary physician of the institution.

A box of opium was seized by the tide surveyor on Wednesday, the 28th April, on board the steamer *Woosung*, which arrived from Hong Kong on Monday, 26th April.

"Medical Certificates."—Says the *Town and Country Journal*:—"In the case of Johanna Griffin, or Griffith, heard in the Newtown Police Court on Saturday, Mr. Fitzgerald, who appeared for the defence as an act of charity, handed to the Bench, among other documents, two papers which the unfortunate woman called 'medical certificates,' to show that her husband was ill and unable to work. Both documents were marked as exhibits in the case. This is how they read:—No. 1, from a 'botanic oculist': '19th January, 1886. I hereby certify that John Griffith is suffering with granulation under his eyelids, warts, and also he is suffering from a bad stomach his liver and his kidneys is diseased and his whole body is full up of matter which is turning into water and the cause of all this is from the bad state of stomach and liver and kidneys.' No. 2, from an 'oculist': '15 Novr, 1885. This is to certify that Mr. John Griffiths as bin under my treatment for three months suffering from desees of the kydnis and optic nerve and unable for to follow hes wark.'"

The receipt of £15,000, portion of the late Mrs. Roberts' legacy to the Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children, was acknowledged at a late meeting of the directors of that institution. It was reported that 37 children had been admitted into the Catherine Hayes Hospital during April, and 22 discharged.

The Grenfell Hospital fund benefited to the extent of £63 by the local sports of Easter Monday.

The disease known as "Cumberland" is reported to have overcome numbers of cattle in the neighbourhood of Patterson.

The annual meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society is advertised to take place at the Board of Pharmacy's office, Phillip-street, on the 10th of June next. Three members of Council and two auditors are to be elected, and it is generally thought that there is every probability of there being a brisk competition for the vacant positions, and Messrs. Mayne, Donald, Melhuish, Sadler, and Kebblewhite are among the announced candidates. Members are cautioned that their subscriptions must be paid up before they record their votes. No steps have been taken to secure the representation of the country members, and the fact that members can only vote by being present at the annual meeting is a matter that is to be regretted.

Evidently there is a good time coming for the pharmacists of New South Wales, and in spite of the depression of trade there seems to be a desire among pharmacists to unite in advancing pharmacy in our midst. The pharmacists' picnic was followed by a cricket match—Wholesale v. Retail—which was followed by a contest between the two wholesale houses. This was succeeded by the establishment of a Druggists' Trade Association, and to-night, 13th May, there is to be held the junior pharmacists' ball, which is to be followed by a pharmacists' fishing party to Broken Bay. At all the gatherings the greatest harmony has prevailed, and, with the exception of a few unpleasant reflections made by a gentleman suffering from that unpleasant complaint which has been named Victriaphobia, all these gatherings are likely to prove a great power in promoting harmony and good feeling in the trade.

In spite of the prognostications of the Victriaphobists, there is a very general feeling of friendship in the minds of pharmacists in this colony towards the Society in Victoria, and regret is often expressed that a less arbitrary line

of conduct had not been pursued by the representatives of the N.S.W. Society in the overtures made to them from Victoria and New Zealand. However, all disagreements may be satisfactorily settled at the approaching Conference, and it is to be hoped that this gathering will be the means of smoothing the difficulties out of the way of unanimous action in the future. Unquestionably this Conference will be a great event in the history of pharmacy in Australia.

Mr. T. J. Henry, son of Mr. Henry, chemist, of George-street, has obtained the third prize in the class for the practice of medicine in the recent examinations at the Edinburgh University. He has also taken first prize in systematic medicine, and gold medal in midwifery and the diseases of women. Mr. G. J. L. O'Neill (late student at the Sydney Hospital) took a third prize in clinical medicine.

The monthly meeting of the Zoological Society was held at the Society's grounds, Moore Park, on the 7th inst. The chair was occupied by Mr. A. Todd Holroyd. The accounts of the Society showed a balance of £364 to its credit, and the receipts for the past five weeks were stated to be £424 gate-money, the number of visitors to the gardens and grounds being nearly 20,000. The gardens had been visited by 2941 school children and 100 teachers during the previous week. The superintendent's report was received, and Mr. G. Perry, Town Clerk of Ballarat, was introduced to the meeting as a visitor. This Society appears to have entered upon a career of great prosperity, and throughout its history seems to have had the advantage of good management and generous donations.

The inaugural meeting of the Horticultural Society was held in the Technical College Hall on Tuesday evening, 11th May. The Mayor of Sydney presided, and among the horticulturists present were Messrs. Shepherd, Beatson, Wooff, Gelding, Tresseder, Turner, Lord, Lindsay, and others. A valuable and interesting address was delivered by Dr. Wools, F.L.S., on the work of the Society, and the exhibition of flowers formed a spectacle that attracted an immense concourse of people.

The attention of the corporation has been drawn to the deposit of house refuse and nightsoil upon the Cooper Estate, in the district between Waterloo and Botany. The water of the Botany dams is in danger of contamination, and the wells in the immediate vicinity are in a very unhealthy state. The attention of the Board of Health having been called to the matter, Dr. Ashburton Thompson was instructed to draw up a report, and this was transmitted to the corporation through the medium of the Colonial Secretary's department.

Dr. Thompson, who is chief medical inspector to the Board of Health, certainly deserves the thanks of the community in this city for his incessant labours to rid the city of typhoid fever. A recent report from this gentleman shows that in the municipality of Leichhardt a dairy well contained the soakage water from the drains and cemetery in the neighbourhood, and that in this small district over 300 cases of typhoid fever have occurred during this year, the death-rate being about 10 per cent.

The Chemists and Druggists' Trade Association of New South Wales held a meeting for the election of officers, at the office of the Board of Pharmacy, on the 6th instant. The room was well filled, and the following gentlemen were elected:—President, Mr. A. J. Watt; vice-president, Mr. A. G. Kebble-white; treasurer, Mr. J. S. Abraham; auditors, Messrs. G. C. Elliott and W. H. McCarthy; committee, Messrs. Donald, Selfe, Bellemey, and Wells. The rules and bye-laws were considered, and the full discussion referred to the committee for further report. The object of this association seems to be the supplementing the work of the Pharmaceutical Society, and doing the trade work, while to the Society is to be left the scientific work of the trade. The two departments may prosper if separately worked, but there are not a few

who think that one society could do all the work, and that the call for a new organisation is a sign that there is a demand for increased activity on the part of the Council of the Society. It is to be hoped that this new organisation will be characterised by vigorous management and strict attention to the wants of the trade.

On 31st April Dr. Fairant's Medical Bill was introduced into the Assembly for the first time. The Act provides for the protection of the public against unqualified persons practising as medical practitioners, and professes not to interfere with the druggist in counter prescribing; but the 29th section of the Act is by no means reassuring, and will quite bear the interpretation that "consulting chemists" may be liable to harassing prosecutions, and any chemist who prescribes in his consulting-room at the rear of the shop may be proceeded against because of the indefinite wording of this and other clauses. There are not a few, however, who believe that the druggist, if properly protected, will find ample remuneration in his own calling without interfering with that of the medical practitioner.

A death occurred at Margaret-street, Sydney, on the 5th inst., from an overdose of chloral hydrate. The deceased, who was of intemperate habits, was in the habit of having a mixture made up, containing 3iss of chloral, and 5ij pot. brom., and in a drunken spree drank a whole bottle of it.

Dr. Foord Clark, of Tamworth, has died from an "overdose" of prussic acid, taken purely by accident; so the verdict of the coroner's jury. What is an overdose of H.C.N.?

Mr. Roe, of Stearns and Co., Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A., is in Sydney, and is, I believe, doing exceedingly well.

Mr. Norden's new pharmacy, at the corner of Margaret and George streets, was opened a few weeks ago. The shop is quite new, and has been fitted up to Mr. Norden's order by Mr. S. Lester, chemists' shop fitter. Mr. Lester also fitted up Mr. Pratt's new shop at Burwood.

Mr. House has opened a new pharmacy in Oxford-street, opposite Marshall's Paddington Brewery.

Mr. Scott, for some time assistant with Mr. Horton in George-street, has opened in Parramatta-street.

Mr. O'Flaherty has purchased the business from Mr. Armstrong in Elizabeth-street, Redfern.

Mr. Armstrong, who has been for some years in business in Pitt-street, near King-street, has moved into Castlereagh-street, his lease having expired.

Mr. Charles Saunders, chemist, George-street, has filed his schedule. Liabilities, £1600; assets, £250.

Mr. Hinder, formerly in business in Oxford-street, where he sold his interest to Dr. Barkas, has surrendered his estate; assets, £9.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY AND THE BOARD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

On 23rd April a deputation, consisting of Messrs. Larmer, Watt, Pratt, Carter, and Pinhey, members of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales, waited upon the hon. Minister of Public Instruction, to whom they were introduced by Mr. S. Burdekin, M.L.A. For the following report of the proceedings we are indebted to the *Sydney Morning Herald* :—

The object of the deputation was to ask the Government to introduce a bill for the incorporation of the Pharmaceutical Society, which they had long desired should be done, and they wished the Minister to take charge of a bill for that purpose. They also desired to bring under the notice of the Minister a matter referring to the Board of Technical Education, a deputation from whom had waited upon the Minister some time ago, seeking for power to issue certificates of competency to students attending the classes in pharmacy under the Board.

Mr. Pinhey, with reference to the latter subject, denied that the examinations required by the council of the Pharmaceutical Society were so severe as had been alleged. In England, Victoria, and other places three principal examinations were required:—A preliminary examination as a test of general education; a minor examination to qualify the candidate; and a major examination, the last being optional. In this colony only one examination was held, and that fully qualified successful candidates for membership of the Pharmaceutical Society, and for registration under the Sale of Poisons Act of 1870. He affirmed that the papers of the society here were less difficult than those set at Melbourne, and a candidate who obtained 50 per cent. of the marks in each paper was passed. Two hours was always allowed for each paper, and the fullest and amplest time was allowed to the candidates to finish their papers. He further denied that the fees charged here were prohibitive, as had been alleged; in fact, the only fee charged was three guineas. Every facility was offered by the society to enable students to fit themselves for examination. They had an excellent library for the use of the students; they had the nucleus of a *Materia Medica*; and students were assisted in the art of preparation. A thoroughly qualified lecturer, Mr. Edwin Quayle, had been engaged to deliver periodical courses of lectures to students, and the society intended to found a College of Pharmacy should sufficient support be offered them. He further pointed out that the Pharmacy Board had never received any support from the Government, but had depended entirely upon the support of the Pharmaceutical Society, even for the expenses attendant upon the lectures. He contended that the request of the Technical College to be allowed to grant certificates of registration in pharmacy was entirely without precedent. The power to do this was vested in the Board of Pharmacy by the Pharmacy Act, and until it could be shown that the Board had failed in its duty, no reason could be alleged for the appointment of a second qualifying body. He gave a flat denial to the assertion that the Pharmacy Board had been biased in the examinations. In conclusion, he pressed upon the Government the necessity for passing the Amended Pharmacy Bill, introduced into the Legislative Assembly two years ago by Sir Alexander Stuart.

Dr. Renwick said the request of the Board of Technical Education had been submitted as a case to the Attorney-General, Mr. Want, who had suggested that it was not desirable to grant co-ordinate powers to another and distinct body. A regulation empowering the Board of Technical Education to grant certificates should only be made in the event of the Board of Pharmacy having failed in that respect, otherwise the Government should not interfere. The Board of Pharmacy was legally constituted for the purpose of making the examination of chemists and druggists, and of giving certificates after the students had obtained their education, either at the Technical College or elsewhere, and had served a proper time of apprenticeship. As regarded the request made to him to introduce a bill for the incorporation of the Pharmaceutical Society, he would read the bill and carefully consider its provisions, and would communicate with Mr. Piahey on the subject.

CRICKET MATCH.—ELLIOTT BROS. V. AUSTRALIAN DRUG COMPANY (LATE E. PROSSER AND CO).

A FRIENDLY cricketing contest between teams representing the above well-known houses took place on 17th ult., at Botany. A feature of the gathering deserving of most complimentary reference was the spirit of good-fellowship for which the whole proceedings were noted. The day was a pleasant one, and that the outing was thoroughly enjoyed by all was made unmistakably apparent. At the conclusion of the game—the scores of which we regret the pressure upon our space in this issue will not allow us to give—the company was entertained at an excellent dinner, set in the Sir Joseph Hawley Hotel. In the absence of Mr. H. S. Levy, the chair was occupied by Mr. Manners, Mr. Joseph Hemmons filling the vice-chair; but Mr. Levy came upon the scene soon after the covers had been removed, and his popularity was shown in the hearty reception with which he was greeted. Mr. Levy then took the chair, Mr. Manners stationing himself on the right hand of the post of honour. The inner man having been satisfied, the champagne corks were set flying, and the toasts, "The Queen" and "The Governor," were duly honoured.

"Success to our Annual Meeting" was then proposed by the chairman, who expressed himself as willing to do his best to forward the happy relations at present existing between the two firms and their *employés*, and trusted that, as he was in his own firm a comparatively new worker, he hoped that he would receive from his *employés* a continuation of that courtesy which had already been shown him, and he wished from the bottom of his heart success to all such gatherings.

Mr. Gray responded, assuring the chairman that, had it not been for the generous support and hearty good wishes of their employers, such success as they had that day achieved could not have attended their best exertions. He thanked the chairman for the generous way he had spoken of the *employés*, and assured him that he believed the success of the firm was the wish of each and every one of them.

Mr. F. T. Jackson next gave "The Cricketing Teams," in very happy terms, remarking that it was a pleasure to him to be able to propose the healths of gentlemen whose brains were the principal part of them, and the muscle next. He contended that the chemist required more than the ordinary amount of the former commodity, and concluded by wishing the teams another pleasant meeting.

The toast was responded to by Messrs. Fowler and Elliott, the respective captains.

"Success to the Firms of the Australian Drug Co. and Messrs. Elliott Bros." was proposed by Mr. Manners, who said the height to which both firms had reached, in his opinion, was second to none in the Southern Hemisphere. He assured the company there was plenty room for the two firms to live and flourish exceeding.

Mr. J. Hemmons, of the Drug Co., in response, regretted that the very hard work that Mr. Prosser had gone through lately prevented that gentleman from being present to show his appreciation of the movement. For himself, he thanked Mr. Manners on behalf of his firm for the good wishes that gentleman had expressed, and added that, if they did not beat Elliott Bros. in business, they would try their best to do it at cricket.

Mr. H. S. Levy also responded, eulogising the gentlemen with whom he was associated, and trusted that he would live to see many such gatherings as the present one.

"The Visitors," proposed by Mr. Lane, was responded to by Mr. Frank Fowler, whose speech enhanced the general good humour.

The Chairman, in responding for himself, said he felt himself among as "jolly a lot of fellows" as ever he could wish to be with.

The toasts of "The Vice-Chairman" and "The Press," with "Auld Lang Syne," brought to a conclusion a most enjoyable outing.

South Australia.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

THE usual monthly meeting of the above society was held on Tuesday, 4th May. There was a good attendance of members, the president (Mr. Harrison) being in the chair.

The finance committee presented their report, which was adopted. The report showed that the society's financial condition was most satisfactory, and that its success had been greater than its promoters anticipated. Nine gentlemen who had previously been nominated for membership were elected. In reference to an application from Mr. Chalwin, veterinary surgeon, for membership, it was moved by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Porter, "that the decision of the former meeting declining to entertain such application be upheld, on the ground that this is purely a society of pharmacists." Carried.

Proposed by Mr. Scammell, seconded by Mr. Grummett—"That a board of examiners be appointed, consisting of the president, vice-president, and two others." Carried.

Proposed by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Poole—"That Mr. L. Scammell and Mr. Charles Fryar be appointed members of the board of examiners, in accordance with the foregoing motion." Carried.

The president then called attention to the motion of Mr. Hill—"That a committee be appointed to consider the advisability of obtaining a Pharmacy Act for South Australia."

Mr. Hill, in introducing his motion, said that since the last meeting he had more fully considered the matter, and was now doubtful whether it would not be better to merely have a general discussion upon the desirability or otherwise of a Pharmacy Act than to take such a decided step as placing the motion for a committee before the meeting. He wanted the matter to be thoroughly discussed, so that all possible light might be thrown upon it, and this was his main idea in proposing the appointment of a special committee. He had noticed that the pharmaceutical societies of various countries, as they progressed, invariably sought the aid of legislation, and he presumed from this that such aid was beneficial to the pharmacists who obtained it. Victoria and the other colonies had gone in this direction, following in the steps of Great Britain, and if an Act was of use to the chemists of the old country, and of her dependencies who had adopted it, then it might be helpful also to the pharmacists of South Australia. He did not say that it would be, but brought the matter forward in order to ascertain whether it would or not. The status of chemists in South Australia needed to be raised and fixed, and possibly an Act would do this.

Mr. Poole said he was personally in favour of an Act, but thought the difficulties in the way of its application to our extended district insurmountable. It would take years to get an Act, and without influence in the Legislature he did not see how it could be done.

Mr. White pointed out that, with regard to country districts where there were no chemists, that difficulty could be got over by having a clause in the Act to the effect that all storekeepers beyond a certain distance from a chemist could sell drugs, &c., provided they obtained a license from the Pharmaceutical Society. He, too, was in favour of an Act if it would be a benefit, but it must not be forgotten that, unless it was worded according to our wants, it might prove prejudicial. It might prevent chemists prescribing for slight ailments, and as this formed a considerable part of the trade of many such, a restriction would be severely felt.

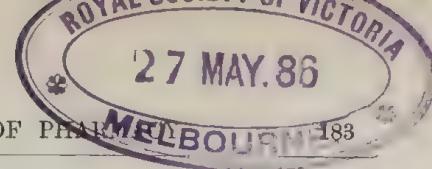
Mr. Long was of opinion that we knew little of the effect of Pharmacy Acts, and thought the appointment of a committee to thoroughly investigate the matter, and then report to the society, would be the best thing we could do. The opinion of pharmacists living where the Acts were in force might be obtained.

The vice-president, Mr. Grundy, thought the present time unsuitable for obtaining a Pharmacy Act. The members of the Legislature were too much occupied with the serious business which the present depression and other causes forced upon them to give attention to our needs, and he therefore thought that to take action now would be premature.

Mr. Smith and others gave some evidence in reference to the result of legislation on pharmacy in England and elsewhere, and the president then reviewed the various difficulties in the way. Speaking of the educational advantages of an Act, Mr. Harrison said that these were great, and had the effect of raising the status of the pharmacist to the position it ought to occupy. It also stimulated the pursuit of knowledge among the younger members. With regard to the country districts, that difficulty could be obviated as Mr. White suggested. In reference to restrictions upon chemists through an Act, these could only be prevented by having influence in the Legislature on the side of pharmacy, and, inasmuch as we had no advocates at present, while there were several representatives of the medical profession to look after its interests, it was doubtful whether this was a suitable time to bring the matter forward. He was in favour of an Act when one such as we needed could be obtained.

Mr. Hill then said that his purpose had been partly served by the discussion that had taken place. He saw, however, the need of obtaining further information, but would like to postpone the motion till next meeting, in order that some not present might have an opportunity of expressing their opinion. He moved therefore that the motion be postponed. This was permitted and carried, and the proceedings terminated.

A somewhat full account of the above meeting is placed before your readers in the belief that they will not be wearied by it, inasmuch as it marks a noteworthy point in the history of South Australian pharmacy. At the first meetings of the Pharmaceutical Society all the members were unanimous in their opinion that voluntary methods were the best for them, but now, although they have not exactly abandoned that position yet, they are seriously considering the desirability of compulsory education and legal status. Bound together as a society, we naturally observe the lines which other similar bodies have traversed, and cannot help asking ourselves the question whether such a course may not be best for us, nor deny that it very likely is. There is very little doubt but that a committee to investigate will be appointed, and if their report should be favourable to an Act, we trust we may be able to so frame it as to secure to pharmacists here all reasonable advantages and prevent all unfair restriction.



At a meeting of the Royal Society, on 6th April, an interesting discussion on poisoning by tinned foods was initiated by Professor E. H. Rennie, who admitted that it was a very difficult matter to decide whether the results were due to the presence of tin in the fish or to decomposition of the latter. He considered it very probable that the same causes which bring about the decomposition of the fish are those which cause the tin plate to be attacked, and the tin compounds find their way into the food. In any case, whether the tin be the cause of the poisoning or not, its presence in considerable quantities in the food could be no good sign. Whenever this is the case, he added, the bright surface of the tin in the interior of the vessel will be found to be black, and to have the signs of corrosion. Dr. Whittell favoured the opinion that the symptoms in the recent Tanunda cases were caused by tin in the fish, and not by decomposition. The symptoms recorded pointed to the presence of an irritant metallic poison in the stomach, followed by extreme prostration; in fact, they were much more severe than animal poison generally produced. Just as some forms of iron produced no poisonous effect when introduced in the human body, there might be some forms of tin which are innocuous, while other chemical compounds of tin might in very small doses produce irritation. But even if it were proved that the poisoning is owing to decomposition in the article of alimentation, he feared that would not relieve us from our difficulty, because the manufacturers would scarcely take the trouble to ascertain that in every case the fish was free from decomposition before being put up.

A very interesting "gossip" meeting of the Field Naturalist section of the Royal Society was held on 20th April, Dr. Cleland, the recently appointed lecturer on *materia medica* in the University, occupying the chair. Dr. Cleland showed some sea-urchins and mussels from Aldinga. Professor Tate brought a new South Australian shell, *Venus gallinula*. Mr. R. H. Pulleine exhibited some insects from the Northern Territory and Western Australia, and some shells from Encounter Bay, including a new *Pomatiopsis*. Mr. A. Molineux brought a tree-cricket, the antennæ of which were about three times as long as its body. Mr. G. Collis, jun., showed a branch with flowers and fruit of *Momordica balsamina*, a plant indigenous to South Africa and the East Indies. Mr. S. Dixon brought for distribution some gem sand from a diamond mine in New South Wales. Mr. J. G. O. Tepper showed a core of the Kangaroo Island grasstree (*Xanthorrhœa Tatei*), and a large collection of dried plants from various parts of the world. The same gentleman also showed a representative collection of the orders of South Australian insects, and gave an interesting address on the subject of his exhibit. The address gave rise to some discussion, and it was decided to bring before the Royal Society the desirableness of securing for the Museum an exhibit illustrative of the economic entomology of this colony.

At the annual meeting of the subscribers of the Narracoorte Hospital, held on 4th May, the satisfactory report was made that of 169 patients admitted during the year only eight had died.

Twelve of the 15 pupils of the St. John Ambulance Association who passed the preliminary examination on 1st inst. came up for examination on 4th inst., and all succeeded in satisfying the surgeon-examiner.

THE wearing of unventilated hats, says a medical journal, is one of the greatest sources of failure of nutrition of the hair. The beard never falls out because it gets plenty of sunlight and air. These are what the hair of the scalp needs also. The scalp should be examined regularly, and if unhealthy, dry, and scurvy, the proper applications should be made to it.

Tasmania.

THE Premier, accompanied by Mr. G. T. Collins (chairman of the Hospital Board), recently paid a visit of inspection to the Launceston General Hospital, and expressed himself thoroughly pleased with the improvements which have lately been carried out.

Famous as is Tasmania as a health resort, it must not be imagined that the tight little island is entirely free from its share of the ills that flesh is heir to. In autumn typhoid fever and erysipelas make their attack, measles and scarlet fever take their turn in winter, and in summer sicknesses of various sorts put in an appearance. A case of German measles admitted into the Launceston General Hospital the other day heralds the approach of the winter contingent this year. It is to be hoped that the physician and the chemist in combination will prove too strong for these guerilla combatants.

Some time ago circulars were sent by a Hobart committee to the old scholars of the High School, asking their co-operation in presenting a testimonial to their old master, Rector Harris. It is pleasant to learn that responses have been received, not only from all parts of Tasmania, but from old High School scholars now resident in the other colonies—and many of them, no doubt, numbered among the readers of the *Pharmacy Journal*—the result being that between £200 and £300 has been promised the treasurer of the fund, a satisfactory proof of the respect and affection in which the Dominie was held by his boys.

A letter was recently received in Launceston from a well-known resident of the Straits Islands, drawing attention to the wanton cruelty practiced by white residents of the islands in burning the rookeries of the mutton-birds at Chappell Island. As these curious birds build in the earth, under tufts of grass, &c., they are in this manner actually burnt alive. Ornithologists, and, for that matter, every person possessed of any humane feelings, will be glad to learn that, a special constable having now been appointed at the islands, there is reason to hope that steps will be taken to stop this barbarous practice.

At the Launceston Police Court the other day, a woman named Susannah Yates was charged with failing to pay £5 12s. 6d. due by her for hospital fees on account of her father, who had been under treatment in the hospital for 25 days. The poor woman pleaded that she was not in a position to pay, and that she had four brothers in good positions, who should be forced to contribute their share of the expense. As she had guaranteed the charges in the first instance, the Bench held her to be responsible, and made an order against her for the amount. For the sake of Tasmanian manhood it is to be hoped the "four brothers in good positions" felt a blush of shame mantling their brows as they read the case in the morning papers.

Mr. W. P. Green, late of Sydney, has been appointed dispenser of the Launceston Friendly Societies' Dispensary, *vice* Mr. J. D. Johnstone, resigned. Mr. Green is a native of Launceston, and for the last four years has been manager for Messrs. A. J. Watt, Son and Co., of George-street, Sydney.

Pharmaceutical matters are very quiet after the recent bustle *re* "unqualified dispensers," which seems to have died a natural death, because it is really too much trouble for the Court of Medical Examiners to take the necessary steps to carry out the Act.

Quite a little excitement was created in Hobart among the profession when it became known that Superintendent Pedder, with Detectives Delaney and Franklin, had on 4th April made a seizure of a still, with fittings complete, together with twenty gallons of 60 o.p. spirit and thirty-seven gallons under proof, the

undoubted property of R. Rawson, sen., an unregistered chemist, and one by Act 29 Victoria, No. 12, therefore not entitled to distil spirit of any description, &c., &c. Here I may say that the registered chemists of Tasmania are allowed by law to distil spirits for the purpose of making their own tinctures, and on no condition to retail spirit in its natural state; and, to ensure the production should be small, it was fixed that the still should hold no more than five gallons.

On 17th April R. C. Rawson (a registered chemist) and Robert Rawson appeared at the Police Court for having an unregistered and therefore illicit still on premises occupied by R. C. Rawson, sen. The necessary evidence was produced, which resulted in a conviction and a fine of £100 being imposed on each defendant, together with the costs of the case. On a second charge, of vending rectified spirits of wine, a nominal penalty of £1 was imposed. In evidence R. Rawson stated that he had applied for a license to the Treasurer or to the Superintendent of Police, but the latter denied this, and, the former's office not having replied, I can fairly believe Mr. Rawson's letter was either lost in transit or never written at all.

At the meeting of the Central Board of Health, held on 2nd April, Dr. Hardy made some excellent remarks *re* the deep drainage of Hobart, which he believed would make it the sanatorium of the colonies, which at present it was not. Mr. Mault, the new inspector, was directed to draw up plans for the further consideration of the board on this subject. At their next meeting Dr. Perkins (the president) made an explanation *re* the drainage system proposed, differing greatly from Dr. Hardy, as he preferred the earth system, which he did not think could be excelled. Ultimately it was decided to ask the aid of the local Board of Health in addressing the Ministry for monetary aid in drawing up the necessary plans for improving the drainage for Hobart, estimated to cost £1000.

At the last Hospital Board meeting attention was drawn to the great mortality of the hospital, but the chairman pointed out that this was due to the great number of cases admitted in almost a dying state, or dying within forty-eight hours after. He stated that in January 3 cases, February 11 cases, and March 15 cases had been admitted to the hospital, and died forty-eight hours after. After discussion, it was decided that the house surgeon could not have refused any of these cases, though the board deprecated the practice of the various medical men in sending to the hospital cases in a dying state.

New Zealand.

ON the 28th of last month the fifth standard examination of the Pharmacy Board of New Zealand was held in Auckland and the various local centres. The questions were as under:—

DIVISION No. 1.—PRACTICAL PHARMACY.

Time allowed, two hours.

(1) Render the following in good Latin, without abbreviation, and translate into English:—

R	Ac. nit. hydroch. dil.	5iss
	Liq. strychnia	m _{xxiv}
	Liq. tarax.	3vi
	Ext. cascara sagrad liq.	3ii
	Inf. rosæ. acid ad.	3viii
m _t	ft mist. sumat coch. magn. duo	
	hor ii. post aliment, vomito superven nisi.	

R Camphor monobrom gr.i.
 Ext. cannab. ind. gr. $\frac{1}{2}$
 Om nocte sumend ad tres vices.

Translate into Latin the following :—

“Apply a blister for six hours behind the left ear, to be followed by a bread poultice.”

- (2) Read and explain the four autograph prescriptions submitted.
- (3) Dispense at counter one of the above.
- (4) What is sublimation? Wherein does it differ from distillation? Give three examples.

(5) Infusions. Give examples of five well-known infusions, and state what infusions are directed to be prepared with cold water, and those with water at 120° F.

(6) Give the composition and method of preparing *mistura ferri. comp.*, *mist. guiaci*, and *mist. scammonii* of P.B. 1867.

(7) Chloroform—how prepared? its solubility in water, S.V.R., ether, fixed oils, and glycerine? also state substances for which it is a solvent.

(8) Give the several methods of coating pills, and criticise the merits of each from pharmaceutical and medical aspects.

NOTE.—Candidates must only attempt to answer six of the above questions, but numbers 1, 2, and 3 are compulsory.

No candidate shall pass unless he show skill in reading and dispensing prescriptions, and a reasonable degree of neatness, dexterity, and despatch in his other practical work. Subject to these conditions, maximum marks will be awarded as follows :—

No. 1, 30; Nos. 2 and 3, 20 each; No. 7, 12; the remainder, 10 each.

DIVISION NO. II.—MATERIA MEDICA AND BOTANY.

Time allowed, two hours.

(1) Name the distinctive characteristics of the three great divisions of the vegetable kingdom (exogens, endogens, and cryptogams), with at least two examples of each.

(2) State the sources of musk, spermaceti, ammoniaci, diastase, ergot, and phosphorus, and give shortly the properties of each.

(3) Describe ipecacuanha, giving botanical name, natural order, and habitat. Give proportion of alkaloid, and mention the official preparations in which ipecacuanha occurs.

(4) Enumerate the resins, gum resins, also resins and gums obtained from the leguminosæ, with botanical names of plants yielding them.

(5) Specimens submitted. Give English and botanical names, natural order, and habitat.

(6) Name the active principles contained in coffee, malt, ergot, calabar bean, and rhubarb, and state proportion.

(7) Enumerate the powders containing opium, giving proportions and doses.

(8) Enumerate the chlorides and iodides of mercury, giving respective doses, and the pharmacopœia preparations into which they enter.

NOTE.—Candidates must only attempt six of the above questions, and shall receive for complete answers maximum marks as follows :—

Nos. 4, 5, and 8, 17 each; Nos. 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7, 15 each.

DIVISION No. III.—CHEMISTRY.

Time allowed, two hours.

- (1) $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$. Give methods of preparation, and uses in pharmacy.
- (2) Benzoic acid. Give, in equations, its composition, also its preparation and properties.
- (3) State the chemical results in the practice of "tanning."
- (4) State the amount of phosphoric anhydride in 47·348 grains of tri-calcic phosphate.
- (5) How would you decide whether a solution contained quinine sulphate or chinchonine sulphate?
- (6) Give the combining weights of CaCO_3 , FeCO_3 , K_2CO_3 , Na_2CO_3 , $10\text{H}_2\text{O}$, MgCO_3 , CO_2 .
- (7) Give the chemical reactions of albumen with aqueous solutions of some of the metals.
- (8) Calculate the amount of $2\text{MgOP}_2\text{O}_5$ which could be produced from 13·271 grammes of MgCO_3 .

Note.—Candidates must only attempt six of the above questions, and shall receive for complete answers maximum marks as follows:—

No. 8, 20; Nos. 2 and 6, 17 each; the remainder, 15 each.

In the whole of the papers it will be noticed that there is an evident bias in the direction of purely memory questions, as witness questions 5, 6, and 7 of the practical pharmacy paper and questions 4 and 6 of the *materia medica* and botany paper. But it is in the chemistry paper that the pharmaceutical Stokes would shine. There is a tendency amongst many teachers and examiners to value the name of the thing more than the thing itself, and it is only by persistent effort on the part of the best English and Continental thinkers that this error, formerly general, has in a measure been corrected.

Yet, notwithstanding all that has been written and said about this matter, the very first question in the chemistry paper of the examination just concluded does not even use a name, but opens the ball with a hieroglyphic.

In question 2, how is the candidate to give, *in equations*, "composition . . . and properties" of benzoic acid?

In the third question the candidate is evidently expected to have a general knowledge of technical processes other than those purely pharmaceutical. Surely "tanning" is an art or trade, and can only be spoken of as a "practice" when exercised by a schoolmaster or a parent.

It seems unnecessary to review the paper further, but we should bear in mind that, however open to criticism may be the work of our examiners, they are but novices in that capacity; and at least it is a good thing that a number of gentlemen can be found willing to devote much valuable time to an office which is often unpopular and never satisfactory.

The New Zealand Smelting Company, which was formed to buy the gold-smelting process, the patents for which are held by Mr. La Monte, have refused to take over from him the furnace and refinery which he had erected at the Thames. The terms he made were that he erected the necessary plant, ran the same for 60 days, and saved 90 per cent. of gold and silver at a cost of two pounds per ton. The actual cost came out six pounds fifteen shillings per ton.

The Pharmacy Bill, in a slightly different form, will be brought before the House this session, but it would be better perhaps if the matter were allowed to stand over until the Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference has been held. Here

in New Zealand the question of pharmaceutical education will be one of great difficulty. There are at least four towns of sufficient importance to warrant the establishment of a College of Pharmacy, and yet if any available funds for such a purpose were divided between four schools, instead of being concentrated in one, all would suffer in the matter of equipment, professors, etc:

In parts of the country districts to the north of Auckland the fields and roadsides are in places completely covered with what people living in those districts speak of as pennyroyal. It certainly is one of the mints, and as such goes to show the suitability of the climate and soil to the cultivation of at least some herbs and leaves of value to the pharmacist and perfumer. Mr. Piesse, when visiting the Melbourne Exhibition, gave some lectures on flower culture as a paying industry, and it would be of interest to many of our readers here if a *résumé* of Mr. Piesse's remarks could be presented to them. Many settlers are certainly favourable to some industry of the kind, for the product, when manufactured, would not be unduly bulky, and would be sufficiently costly to leave a good margin after deducting reasonable expenses of carriage, &c. In the case of ordinary products the railway charges are so excessive that farmers and others find it pays better to give their fruit to the pigs than send it into market.

On the last Sunday in March the census of the colony was taken, and, as far as any returns have at present come to hand, shows an increase in the number of the population. This is, so far, satisfactory, and, no doubt, if a vigorous immigration policy were initiated, and a more liberal policy of land settlement carried out, a self-reliant rural population could be established.

At an inquest on the body of Charles John Barry Murray, who was found dead in his bed at Christchurch recently, the jury returned a verdict that deceased had committed suicide by taking chlorodyne while in a state of temporary insanity. The coroner, Mr. Beetham, called attention to the fact that chlorodyne was not in the list of poisons of which chemists were obliged to keep a record of sale.

It is announced that the Wellington Hospital trustees have decided to try and obtain the drugs required at the Hospital locally, instead of importing them, as has been hitherto done.

Dr. Frank Ogston, whose appointment as lecturer on hygiene and medical jurisprudence in the Otago University was chronicled in last month's issue, had previously accepted an offer to settle in the Mackenzie country. According to the *Timaru Herald*, Dr. Ogston has selected Dr. Henry Angus, of Aberdeen University, for the latter appointment.

A man named William Robert Doyle was poisoned recently at Auckland through taking carbolic acid as a sleeping draught. He had been drinking.

On 17th ultimo an inquest was held at Eden Terrace, New North Road, Auckland, on the body of John Doyle, a carpenter, aged 58. The deceased had been of intemperate habits, and had informed a neighbour that he had taken laudanum, carbolic acid, and arsenic at different times, with a view of inducing sleep. A small phial, containing about an ounce, labelled "Dr. Tennant's Dispensary. Carbolic Acid. Poison. Dose, one drop," was found in the room in which the death occurred. The *post mortem* showed the deceased's stomach to have contained about three ounces of carbolic acid and rum, and the cause of death was poisoning by carbolic acid. A verdict was returned to this effect.

Mr. Hyatt, Master of the Cambridge West School, Waikato, has lately given a course of lectures on chemistry to his pupils, and succeeded in creating a considerable interest in the subjects treated upon.

Infant mortality in Auckland is very largely on the increase—whether due to an exceptionally trying season, bad sewerage, careless conduct of mothers, or a combination of all three, no one knows; but serious attention is being paid to the matter.

A man named Cotterill, a master tailor, committed suicide by taking carbolic acid at Napier on 26th ultimo. Business troubles are stated to have induced the act.

The Auckland Naturalists' Field Club lately made an enjoyable excursion to Waitakerei Falls. The collections of the various members of the party were considerably augmented by the acquisition of various zoological and botanical specimens encountered during the trip.

Queensland.

WITH respect to the alleged antidote for snake bite, the particulars of which were given in last month's issue, the following letter, from a Mr. Joseph Harr, has been published in the *Brisbane Courier* :—"In to-day's paper I notice a cure for snake bite. Persons in the bush reading this will be able to make little or no use of it. For instance, how many selectors know how much 90·2 grammes is? I do not know myself whether it is one quart or one drop. Nobody in the bush knows what an injector is, nor how to use it, unless you mean the big syringe for a horse with gripes. Can you give us full particulars and oblige?" To this letter was appended the following foot-note by the editor :—"A gramme is the continental unit of weight; its English equivalent is about $15\frac{1}{2}$ grains—therefore, 0·02 grammes is about the fiftieth part of $15\frac{1}{2}$ grains, or 3-10th of a grain. However, we do not advise our correspondent to be too sanguine about the remedy." The *Spectator*, in a review of the latest book on snake poison by Mr. Vincent Richards, says :—"The nearest approach to a remedy is permanganate of potash, with which Dr. de Lacerda, of Rio de Janeiro, claims to have neutralised the poison of the *bothrops*, whose bite, however, is not nearly so venomous as that of the *cobra*, nor, as we presume, of the deadly South American *nauhyaca*. After nearly 100 experiments with permanganate of potash, Mr. Richards arrives at the conclusion that up to the present time it has never been experimentally shown that any agent has either the power to neutralise cobra-poison when lying in the tissues, or to prevent death when four minutes has elapsed from the time of injection of the poison to that of treatment. Actually mixed with the poison, permanganate of potash appears to act as a neutralising agent; but as hypodermic injection within four minutes of the infliction of a bite is, save experimentally, materially impossible, the remedy is practically useless."

The commission of medical men, appointed some months ago to inquire into the outbreak on board the B.I.S.S. Company's steamer *Dorunda*, have published their report, declaring the disease to be cholera contracted at Batavia; and the Chief Secretary has by cable requested the Agent-General not to allow Dr. Hickling to be again employed in the immigration service until he has furnished a satisfactory explanation of certain matters connected therewith. Dr. Korteum, the health officer at Cooktown, has been requested to report fully upon the circumstances attending the arrival of the *Dorunda* at that port, and to forward a copy of the report which he received from Dr. Hickling upon the nature of the sickness on board at that time. In their report the commissioners recommend the establishment of a quarantine station, to be in close proximity to Thursday Island, and also that suitable sites be selected near Cooktown and Townsville.

The erection of a very limited number of buildings will be necessary, tents being chiefly relied on.

As a result of the recent inquiry into the management of the Polynesian Hospital, at Maryborough, Dr. Joseph, the medical superintendent, has been dismissed, and Dr. O'Connor has accepted the temporary management. A local correspondent states that a good deal of interest is taken in the district as to the course which the Government will pursue in respect to future management. "The planters," he states, "have proposed that a competent head wardsman, with certain stated visits from a town doctor, would be ample, but I may say the general public hardly agrees with the scheme, believing that 1500 or more islanders demand the whole attention of a medical man."

It is not too often that gratitude for kindly services rendered during illness survives convalescence so that well-to-do relatives offer any recognition of these services beyond the conventional tender of "thanks." It is pleasant, therefore, to read that, at a recent meeting of the Toowoomba Hospital committee, it was announced that a letter had been received from Mrs. Busby, widow of the late Hon. G. H. Busby, of Sydney, thanking Dr. Flood for the kindness and attention shown to her brother while a patient in the hospital, and asking his acceptance of a draft for ten guineas. It is to be hoped that the example thus shown will find many imitators, and that the recipients of such "windfalls" will do as Dr. Flood did—present the draft to the institution.

At Mount Walker, Ipswich, recently, a boy and girl, the children of a man named Baills, ate a number of castor oil beans, and were soon afterwards attacked with violent purging and vomiting. A neighbour who was called in by the father promptly administered emetics and injections, which procured relief. The children were not, however, altogether free from the effects for some days afterwards.

Notes on British Society Meetings.

At a meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, on 3rd March, donations were received from the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland of their calendar for 1886; and from the Pharmacy Board of Victoria of their Pharmaceutical Register for 1885, and of a copy of a "Bill to Amend the Pharmacy Act 1876." Thanks were voted to the donors.

At a meeting of the Manchester] Pharmacy Students' Association, on 25th February, the chairman, while congratulating the Association upon the honour conferred upon it by the selection of its President, Mr. Alfred H. Jackson, to the post of Director and Lecturer of the Melbourne College of Pharmacy, said that although the loss to the Association was very great and would be keenly felt, he was, however, perfectly sure of one thing, viz., that during the time Mr. Jackson had conducted the meetings of the Association in such a very able manner, he had won most entirely the confidence, esteem, and respect of every member of the Association, and would carry with him their sincerest congratulations and good wishes for his future welfare.

According to the Registrar's report, submitted to a meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Society on 3rd February, it appears that during 1885 there were added to the Register the names of 379 persons, 351 of whom had passed the Minor examination; on the other hand the erasures were 212—207 on account of death, and 5 at the request of those struck off. The result is that the Register contains a total of 13,567 names, 167 more than in 1885. Of this total 2219 are pharmaceutical chemists, and 11,348 chemists and druggists. At

the close of last year the Pharmaceutical Society numbered as members and associates, 4683 registered persons, and 1220 apprentices. This shows a total increase upon the previous year of 93.

At a recent meeting of the North British Branch of the British Pharmaceutical Society, Mr. Hill stated that the result of his examination of the chinchona "resin" revealed it to be a mixture of chinchona red, chinchotannic acid, alkaloids and ash.

Dr. T. Maben, in a paper read before the North British Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society, on vinum ipecacuanha of the new British Pharmacopœia, proposes that the tannin be removed from the wine by precipitation with gelatin, thus obviating the possible danger of some emetic being precipitated as tannate on standing. He thinks it would be impracticable to standardise the wine to represent a definite alkaloidal strength, the problem being how to preserve the preparation. If what he regards as the unnecessary evaporation to dryness be avoided, and the tannin precipitated from the sherry, the wine will, in his opinion, be very satisfactory.

Prof. J. Rutherford Hill, in a paper read before the Edinburgh Chemists' Assistants' Association, recommended that benzoinated lard be prepared by melting one pound of prepared lard, adding 4 fl. drachms tincture of benzoin, and stirring a few minutes to dissipate the spirit. By this method such ointments as chrysarobin, iodoform, and zinc oxide can be readily benzoinated at the time of making. He prepares the tincture by macerating four ounces of coarsely powdered benzoin in 15 fl. ounces of rectified spirit for four days, shaking frequently, then filtering and making up to one pint with spirit. Although the proportion of benzoin in the new British Pharmacopœia has been reduced from 160 to 140 grains per pound of lard, Prof. Hill regards the amount as still too high.

At the March meeting of the School of Pharmacy Students' Association, London, Mr. J. W. Bostock read a paper, "Note on the Purity of the Cream of Tartar of Commerce." The speaker detailed the results of his examinations of various samples of so-called cream of tartar, which he had found to be variously adulterated with flour and gypsum. One sample was wholly tartaric acid, and another contained only 59 per cent. of acid tartrate of potassium. The crystalline samples gave better results than the powdered; but nearly all were found to be more or less adulterated.

C. J. Rathbun, D.D.S., in a paper read before the English Chemists' Assistants' Association, referred the deterioration in the teeth of civilised races to a gradual change in the food habit, disuse of these organs causing a diversion of nutrition to other parts of the body. This diversion of nutrition, and consequent loss of function would, in his opinion, gradually result in reducing the number of teeth from thirty-two to twenty-eight.

Referring to a paper on "The Species of Strophanthus used in Medicine," read at a meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain on 10th March, the president said that this (*Strophanthus*) was a substance which had been experimented upon somewhat carefully by Professor Fraser. It was supposed to have some of the properties of digitalis, without the disadvantages of that drug. If it were found in extended practice that the observations made by Professor Fraser were verified, the preparation of the drug would no doubt form a very important and active part of Pharmacopœias of the future.

A SIGN-PAINTER erroneously made a chemist's sign read :—"Physicians' prescriptions carefully confounded." A malicious commentator remarks that the painter wasn't so far out after all.

Notes from Foreign Journals.

THE New York *Druggists' Circular* states that certain New York and Brooklyn druggists have recently been victimised by clever sharpers, who offered for sale imitations of Wyeth's beef, wine, and iron, and other patent medicines. The goods were sold for less than schedule prices, and upon examination the labels were discovered to contain numerous typographical errors, and, although the same in size, colour, and type with those of the imitated preparations, were printed on inferior paper. Through the clever work of an amateur detective the fraudulent scheme was exposed. The swindle had been in successful operation for more than eight months.

A CORRESPONDENT, writing to the *British Trade Journal*, says:—A present want in Antananarivo (Madagascar) is a chemist's shop. I should very much like to see some Englishman establish one; it would be a paying establishment. The Jesuit Mission, with their usual foresight, used to have a fine supply of all drugs, but they gave them away more or less, and now we have nothing. Some of the natives sell a few odds and ends, but they have an interesting way of sending them out, such, for instance, as twenty-five drops of laudanum in an empty beer bottle, with a wisp of paper for a cork.

A CORRESPONDENT of a medical journal asks if there is anything in the "madstone" as a preventive of hydrophobia, to which query the journal replies: "No; but it may be an excellent remedy for hysterics, following the bites of dogs. The madstone is a form of faith cure."

THE writer of "Science Notes" in the *British and Colonial Druggist* is responsible for the following paragraph:—"The Chair of Chemistry at Melbourne is now vacant, owing to Dr. Kirkland's death, and anyone who wishes to waste his time and colonial postage may apply for the appointment, which is worth £750 per annum and a house (or an extra £100), with an increment of £150 each pentennial period, up to £1200. The Australians want Sir H. Roseoe, M.P.! This being out of the question, I think I can spot the 'approved' candidate."

THE *British and Colonial Druggist* states that the expense of printing and publishing the new edition of the "British Pharmacopœia" during the past year has amounted to £2638. Thirteen thousand five hundred and twenty-two copies of the work were sold up to 31st December.

ACCORDING to the Paris correspondent of the London *Daily Telegraph* the use, or rather abuse, of morphine seems to be steadily gaining ground in France. From time to time protests are raised against this practice, which is becoming more and more popular with the fair sex. Some facts which have recently transpired at Macon show to what an alarming extent the habit is spreading. A chemist in that town has been prosecuted for selling morphine without medical authority to different persons, and among them to the wife of a doctor, who, unknown to her husband, consumed it on a large scale in injections. During the trial several physicians declared that a great number of the inhabitants gave way to this pernicious habit, and one of them, Dr. Jembon, who is attached to the Hotel Dieu, stated that more than a dozen of the lay nurses in that hospital regularly injected morphine into their bodies.

"PARACELSUS," in the *British and Colonial Druggist*, writes:—"Francisceine is proposed as the name of a new alkaloid, which, I hear, has just been extracted from the Brazilian manaca root, the produce of the *Franciscea uniflora* and certain other species. The principle in question is a very powerful purgative and diuretic, having also some well-marked diaphoretic and emmenagogue properties."

REFERRING to Mr. A. H. Jackson's appointment as Director and Lecturer of the College of Pharmacy, Melbourne, the *British and Colonial Druggist* gives the following interesting sketch of his career :—"The gentleman appointed is the latest addition to that ever-increasing band of Owens' College students who have been called to fill professorial chairs in all parts of the world, chiefly in connection with chemical science. Professor Jackson is an Associate of his College, and a member of Convocation of his University. More or less from 1870 to 1882 he studied in Owens' College, working chiefly under Professors Roscoe and Schorlemmer, and winning numerous prizes, exhibitions, etc., besides taking honours in chemistry at the London University. He passed the Preliminary Examination of the Pharmaceutical Society in 1866, the Minor in 1871, and the Major in 1878. In the pharmaceutical classes of Owens' College he took every prize during his session, as he also did at Bloomsbury-square, where he also won the Council Silver Medal, together with the Bell and Hills' prize of Books, in the Honours' examination following the Major in 1878. As President of the Manchester Pharmacy Students' Association, and as a member of the Council of the Manchester Pharmaceutical Association, Professor Jackson has been closely identified with the progress of pharmacy in Manchester. Amongst the papers from his pen may be mentioned those on "Dialysed Iron," "Oils of Cinnamon and Cassia," and "Tartar Emetic."

MR. E. M. HOLMES, F.L.S., curator of the Museum of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, in an article on "Oil of Sandal Wood," contributed to the *Pharmaceutical Journal and Transactions*, details the results of his analyses of various samples of the drug mentioned. He says that sandal oil might be adulterated with half its volume of cedar oil without being detected. Mr. Holmes raises the question as to whether the therapeutic property of the oil is due to true oil of sandal wood, to oil of cedar, or to the oil of the Venezuela tree. He says:—"The species of the genus *juniperus* are known to have physiological effects on the urinary organs, and cedar oil may be possessed of as great, or greater therapeutic value than the sandal wood oil. Since all these oils are to be met with in commerce, it would be more satisfactory to know which is the most valuable remedy; but this point is one to be determined by the medical profession."

THE ceremonial opening of a new chemical school in connection with the University College, Liverpool, took place in March. The building cost £15,000, and includes a lecture theatre with accommodation for 112 students. Mrs. Grant, of Rock Ferry, contributed the munificent gift of £10,000 to endow a chair of chemistry in connection with the institution.

THUS the *Provincial Medical Journal* :—Peptones are now in the order of the day. It will not add to their popularity to have it stated in the *Monthly Journal of Sciences* that the excrements of dogs are collected in Paris and worked up into peptones and powdered extracts of meat.

We extract the following appreciative notice of "ourselves" from the *Pharmaceutical Journal* of 13th March:—"We have received a copy of the first number of *The Australasian Journal of Pharmacy*, the new colonial journal that is to be henceforth issued by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, and supplied gratis to the members of the Society. It consists, apart from advertisements, of 44 octavo pages, and in respect to its general contents is very creditable to the Society. One of the principal articles in it is a paper by Mr. C. R. Blackett, president of the Pharmacy Board, on 'The New British Pharmacopœia' "In its issue for 20th March our contemporary reprints at full length Mr. Bosist's paper on "The Materia Medica of the Eucalyptus," which appeared in our issue for January.

THE Government of India have offered a reward of 5000 rupees to the inventor or discoverer of a satisfactory process for rendering salt unfit for human consumption, while leaving it fit for use by cattle, or for manure, or industrial purposes.

Says a London contemporary :—“The following is a copy of a ‘sign of the times,’ which has recently appeared on the front of an old-established business, in a district where there is one chemist to every three lamp-posts :—‘ Wholesale and Retail Dispensing and Patent Medicine Drug Store. Prescriptions dispensed at reduced rates. Patent medicines, perfumery, etc., at reduced rates.’”

Legal and Magisterial.

IN March last a coronial inquiry was held at Nottingham, England, touching the death of two children, which was found to have resulted from taking a cough mixture. Two other children had also been seriously ill from the same cause. Mr. Wakefield, the chemist who had supplied the medicine, said the coroner, “had done everything he could to facilitate the inquiry. He had given every assistance in furnishing the materials with which he had made the mixture, and he (the coroner) did not know that any man could have done more.” The prescription contained the following ingredients :—Syrup of violets, syrup of squill, ipecacuanha wine, and oil of sweet almonds. The medical witnesses could only ascribe the peculiar symptoms which had appeared in the children (intermittent pulse and interference with the action of the heart) to one of two preparations—digitalis or common foxglove, or syrup of squill. Mr. Wakefield had obtained the syrup from a wholesale druggist in the form of vinegar, and had added to it a proportion of syrup or sugar. Said the coroner, the outside of the sea onion, from which the syrup of squill is obtained, is stronger than that extracted from the interior; and “they were brought face to face with the fact that there was no standard of strength” for the article in question which had produced such poisonous results. The coroner expressed an opinion that a standard of strength should be at once established. One of the medical witnesses stated that, although squill was very commonly used as a medicine for coughs, it was distinctly unfit for the purpose, as it was cumulative in its action, and increased with every dose. A verdict of “Death by misadventure” was returned, and the coroner entirely exonerated Mr. Wakefield, while reiterating his opinion that syrup of squill was an unsafe medicine for children, in consequence of there being no standard of strength for it.

At the Collingwood Police Court, on the 30th April, John Thomas Stevens, a milk carter, was summoned for refusing to supply Mr. Peacock, the sanitary inspector, with samples of the milk he had in his cart. The defendant was fined 40s., with £2 2s. costs. Arthur Wilson was also summoned for selling adulterated milk. It was purchased as skimmed milk, but it was discovered that 25 per cent. of water had been added, and that the fatty solids were 82 per cent. less than in genuine milk. The defendant was fined £5, with £3 3s. costs.

At the Central Criminal Court, on 30th April, James William Stewart, formerly a dispenser at the Benevolent Asylum, pleaded guilty to a charge of bigamy. He was married on 8th August, 1883, to one Hester Walker, and on 6th January last, while his wife was alive, he married Mary Elizabeth Still, niece of Mr. D. G. Stobie, superintendent of the Benevolent Asylum, under whom he was employed. Mr. Purves, who appeared on behalf of the accused, appealed to the court to temper justice with mercy on account of the prisoner’s previous good character. The prisoner was sentenced to six months’ hard labour.

POLICE COURT, NAGAMBIE, 14th April.—J. F. Price v. S. H. Henshall. This was a claim for £4 5s. for work and labour done. John Price deposed he was engaged by Mr. Henshall, and performed his duties to the 16th March, when he was told he was no longer required. There was still one week's salary due. He was engaged on his credentials, which were genuine, but was never asked for a certificate of registration under the Pharmacy Act, and never told Mr. Henshall he possessed a certificate from the Pharmacy Board. The defence was that Mr. Price was not legally qualified to take management of a branch business, and Mr. Henshall was written to by the Pharmacy Board to that effect. A verdict was given for £4 5s., with £2 12s. costs.

WE omitted to note under this heading in our last issue that the contemplated proceedings against Dr. Tremaine, of Creswick, had been abandoned. It will be remembered that the doctor was committed for trial, charged with the manslaughter of Richard Goatley, who had died from the effects of an overdose of morphia, administered by Dr. Tremaine in error. The magistrates before whom the initiatory proceedings were taken expressed the opinion that no criminal negligence had been shown, although they would not accept the responsibility of dismissing the case. The Crown Law Officers, acting upon this advice, entered a *nolle prosequi*, and Dr. Tremaine has, therefore, been relieved of any further care concerning the matter.

A CORONIAL inquiry was lately held at Berrimal, fifteen miles from Wedderburn, Vic., touching the death of a married woman named Sarah Sutton. Evidence was given to the effect that the deceased had been confined, and that on the following day the husband, Robert Sutton, a farmer and butcher, had called on Alexander Dick Cox, carrying on the business of a chemist at Wedderburn, inquiring whether he could give anything to relieve deceased of the after-birth. Cox was reported to have said that he would not take long to relieve the sufferer. Mr. Sutton drove Cox to his house, and the latter remained with the deceased for over an hour. On his coming from the sick room Sutton asked if he thought it would be all right, to which Cox replied: "It will be all right shortly; I think it's nearly finished." Cox then went into the room again, and remained for another hour. He again replied to the husband's query that it would be all right. Sutton said that if Cox feared any danger he would go for a medical man. Cox returned to deceased, and remained with her another hour. When he came out Sutton said: "I had better go for a medical man;" but Cox replied that he had better leave it for a day or so. He added: "If you go for any medical man, go for Crosland." The husband answered that he would please himself. Sutton took Cox back to Wedderburn the same evening. He had no agreement with Cox as to paying him for his attendance. On returning home Sutton found that his wife was what he considered a little better; but next day he thought it necessary to send for Dr. Sutherland; and his wife died eighteen days later, on 2nd inst. Mrs. Caroline Collison, who had been engaged as nurse, deposed that Cox had tried to relieve the deceased of the placenta with his hand, but without success. He said he had never seen a case like it before. The deceased had loudly complained of the pain caused by Cox's manipulation. Up to the time of Dr. Sutherland's arrival no one had interfered with the deceased but Cox. No medical man had been in attendance at the confinement. The child, a boy, was living at the time of the holding of the inquest. Alex. Dick Cox, chemist, before giving evidence, was duly cautioned by the coroner. The witness stated that he had greatly hesitated about going with Sutton, as requested, that he found the placenta in a diseased state, and that after the second attempt to remove it the deceased refused to allow him to continue the operation. On his way home he had, so he said, impressed

on the husband the necessity of telegraphing to Dr. Sutherland in the event of the placenta not coming away by morning. He, the witness, had been practising for upwards of forty years, and the case in question was a difficult one. He had been formerly proceeded against for practising as a medical man and fined. Dr. Sutherland, of Dunolly, gave his opinion that death had resulted through maltreatment. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the death of the woman was occasioned by maltreatment on the part of Alex. Dick Cox; and that person was thereupon committed for trial at Sandhurst, bail being allowed in two sureties of £100 each, and his own recognisance of £200. In regard to this case it may be mentioned that the conviction obtained against Cox referred to in his evidence was obtained at the instance of the Pharmacy Board, as lately as 20th November last, when the accused was fined for an infringement of the 25th section of the Pharmacy Act, "for practising medicine and surgery other than in accordance with the rights and privileges enjoyed by chemists and druggists in their open shops."

POISONING CASES.

CHARLOTTE BLANCHARD, aged 31, was admitted into the Melbourne Hospital on the 22nd April, suffering from laudanum poisoning. She had taken the drug in mistake for her medicine.

THE city coroner held an inquest on Friday, 16th April, on the body of Charles W. Morgan, aged 29, a solicitor, who resided at St. Arnaud. The deceased was taken ill at the Elephant and Castle Hotel, Bourke-street east. It appeared to those persons who saw him there that his hand was paralysed. Dr. Peel was sent for and prescribed medicine for him, a dose of which was to be given to him every two hours. The first dose was administered to the deceased by a fellow-lodger, who went back two hours later to give him another, but found him dead and the medicine bottle empty. The jury found that death resulted through Morgan having taken a poisonous dose of chloral, but there was not sufficient evidence to show whether or not he took it with a view to committing suicide.

Publications Received.

We have received the Catalogue of Exhibits in the Victorian Court of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition. Necessarily there is little to be said concerning such a publication, except as regards its arrangement and printing. In these respects the volume, which numbers 208 pages, offers only material for compliment, and the contents indicate that Victoria is worthily represented.

First Progress Report, with the minutes of evidence, of the Royal Commission on Vegetable Products.

The *Australian Medical Journal* and the *Australasian Medical Gazette* for April, both excellent numbers, and containing a large quantity of matter interesting to the medical profession.

Annual Report, 1885, of the Ballarat School of Mines.

Journal de Médecine de Paris.

The *British and Colonial Druggist*, from the proprietors.

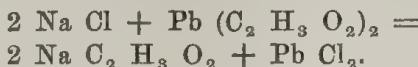
THE following donations to the Library have been received:—From Mr. Potts—"Materia Medica and Therapeutics," by J. Mitchell Bruce, M.D.; and "The Commercial Handbook of Chemical Analysis," by "Normanby." From the editor, Mr. Graham Mitchell, F.R.C.V.S.—*The Australasian Veterinary Journal*.

Correspondence.

ACTION OF PL. CHL. ON THE EYE.

To the Editor of the Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.

SIR.—In noting the various compounds and prescriptions used as Collyriums, it has frequently presented itself to my mind why Pl. Acet. should be exhibited. To a chemist the absurdity is at once evident, as on meeting with the tears an insoluble product (Pb. Chlorid) is at once formed, and, as I once observed, a speck on the surface of the globe of the eye (which ultimately necessitated its removal by the knife) was precipitated. I subjoin the following diagram:—



Yours, &c.,

G. F. CHAMBERLIN.

Prahran, 12th May, 1886.

A NEW PHARMACY.

MR. J. G. SMITH's new pharmacy, situate in Elgin-street, Carlton, adjoining the Colonial Bank, presents a very attractive appearance. The building is in the same style as the bank, built of brick, with cemented front, and of three storeys. The shop is of spacious dimensions, being 18ft. x 21ft. x 16ft. high. The fittings are expensively finished, the dispensing counter having been constructed according to a prize design lately published in an English journal. This compartment is notable for the convenience and taste which have been displayed in its arrangement, the furnishings being in keeping with the decorations and producing an elegant effect. The front window is of considerable proportions, brown and gold being the prevailing colours employed in the decorations, and the general arrangement is such as displays the goods in a very attractive fashion. Mr. Smith is to be congratulated upon the judgment, liberality, and taste which he has displayed in fitting up his new location.

Personalities.

MR. S. S. SHELLEY has been appointed dispenser at the Ballarat Hospital.

SOME very fine specimens of gum have been presented to the Museum by Mr. Robert Nicholls.

MR. ALFRED FELTON has been making some stay in India, and will not reach London until this month.

MR. F. S. GRIMWADE (of Messrs. Felton, Grimwade and Co.) left on a visit to Sydney on the 14th instant.

MR. THOS. LAKEMAN, who was recently in New Zealand, has returned to Sydney, and proposes visiting Victoria shortly.

AFTER a visit to Adelaide and Tasmania, and a stay of some weeks in Melbourne, Mr. W. J. Watkins has returned to Sydney.

MR. ALFRED REEVE, of Ascot Vale, has opened a new branch pharmacy at Essendon, a description of which we hope to give in our next.

KEEPING pace with the times, Mr. J. C. Don, of Swan-street, Richmond, has lately considerably improved his handsome and commodious premises.

MR. FREDERICK HOLMES, who has succeeded to the business of Messrs. Hatton and Laws, Launceston, has recently been on a visit to Victoria.

MR. A. E. GRIFFIN will succeed Mr. Isaacs as the representative of Messrs. Felton, Grimwade and Co. during that gentleman's absence on a visit to England.

IN the report of the presentation of the gold medal to Mr. W. P. Farmer we omitted to mention that Mr. Farmer was apprenticed to Mr. Warbreck, of Murtoa.

MESSRS. C. R. Harker, Stagg and Moss, of London, have forwarded, through Messrs. Rocke, Tompsitt, and Co., some very fine specimens for the Museum.

MR. ISAAC, well known in connection with Messrs. Felton, Grimwade and Co., of Melbourne, has contracted the prevailing epidemic to visit the old country, and sailed in the *Chimborazo* on the 14th inst.

MESSRS. HARRISON AND WEBB, of 53 Chapel-street, Prahran, have just completed some very extensive attractions to their business premises. The shop is now one of the largest and best appointed in the southern suburb.

MR. R. J. FULLWOOD (late of Barkly-street, Carlton), the sale of whose business to Mr. T. B. Jones we noticed in our last issue, has purchased the Collins-street pharmacy of the late Mr. C. Ogg, for some time past carried on by Mr. W. W. Caught.

MR. W. J. MAINE, a member of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales, has been on a visit to South Australia and Victoria. Mr. Maine speaks hopefully of the prospects of speedy legislation on pharmacy in the sister colony, and we trust his expectations may be realised.

MESSRS. Martin and Pleasance, of Collins-street, Melbourne, homœopathic chemists, desire to intimate that they have, during the month, posted their revised wholesale price list to the address of every chemist in the colony, and where it has not been delivered they will be glad to send another, on application.

MR. JOHN EDSON, of Queen-street, Auckland, New Zealand, after having been for 27 years in business in that city, left, on a visit to the old country, by the *Aorangi* on the 8th inst., *via* Rio Janeiro. Mr. Edson has recently erected a new shop in Queen-street, which is now complete, and certainly makes one of the prettiest in the city. The front of the building is of white Oamaru stone, and most tastefully decorated.

CONSIDERABLE damage was caused on the afternoon of the 20th ult. through two horses bolting in Bourke-street. They ran on to the footpath, and the vehicle coming in contact with the window of Mr. Wm. Rowley, chemist, a dentist's show-case, which had been hanging outside, was completely demolished, and the plate-glass forming the window was knocked out and broken to pieces. The damage to Mr. Rowley's premises and stock will amount to about £190.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

BENNETT.—On the 14th April, at 36 Perth-street, Prahran, the wife of F. G. Bennett, chemist, of a daughter.

BLACKBURN.—On the 5th May, at Horsham, the wife of C. A. Blackburn, chemist, of a son.

HEMMONS.—On the 26th April, at Gateshead, High-street, Prahran, the wife of Fred. Hemmons, a daughter.

BIGNELL.—On the 3rd May, at 239 Lygon-street, Carlton, the wife of Edmund Bignell, chemist, of twins (sons).

REED.—On the 1st May, at Tarwong, Lisson-grove, Hawthorn, the wife of J. H. Reed, a son.

DEATH.

PARKER.—On the 9th May, at Douglas-parade, Williamstown, Ellen Eliza, the beloved wife of Charles Parker, pharmaceutical chemist.



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[VOL. I.

Original and Selected Articles.

DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW SPECIES OF EUGENIA

BY BARON FERD. VON MUELLER, K.C.M.G., M. & PH.D., F.R.S., F.C.S. &c.

Eugenia Holtzei.—Branchlets terete; leaves thinly chartaceous, conspicuously stalked, almost ovate, bluntly acuminate, distantly subtle-penninerved, copiously and pellucidly dotted, paler beneath; cymes compound, lateral, trichotomous, with slender ramifications; flowers small, one to three on the ultimate peduncles, these about as long as the flowers or variously shorter or almost obliterated; calyx jointed with the last peduncles, its tube turbinately-semiglobular, much produced beyond the ovary, entire at the margin, not angular, somewhat longer than the depressed-hemispheric slightly pointed lid; petals four, minute, roundish, sessile, agglutinated to the lid; anthers almost oval; style very slender; stigma not dilated; ovary two-celled, flat-topped; ovules not numerous in each cell, horizontal or ascending.

Near Port Darwin; Moritz Holtze. A good-sized tree, with aromatically fragrant foliage. Petioles $\frac{1}{2}$ — $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long. Leaves measuring 2—4 inches in length, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ —2 inches in breadth, slightly decurrent at the base; the peripheric vein somewhat distant from the margin and irregularly diverging into veinlets, none of the veins particularly prominent. Cymes 2—4 inches long; the general peduncle one inch or less in length, not angular. Bracteoles minute, lanceolar-deltoid, fugacious. Tube of the flowering calyx $\frac{1}{8}$ — $\frac{1}{6}$ inch long, shining; operculum paler, membranous, after secession often persistently adhering yet on one point, faintly four-nerved, not bursting into lobes. Petals about $\frac{1}{10}$ inch long, not readily separable, though really distinct. Stamens forming several rows, the longest measuring nearly $\frac{1}{8}$ inch; filaments pale. Placentas towards the base lateral. Fruit not seen. This species is evidently allied to *E. Kalahiensis*, differing in rather longer petioles, in leaves more protracted at the summit, with thinner less copious nervature and with the circumferential vein less near the edge, in not distinctly pedicellate flowers and probably in its fruit also.

This tree deserves technologic attention, as a cosmetic oil might be distilled from the foliage, the numerous oil-dots indicating a fair yield.

Eugenia Baeuerlenii.—Branchlets somewhat angular; leaves on very short stalks, thick-chartaceous, almost oblong-elliptical, bluntly short-acuminate, somewhat decurrent at the base, very spreadingly penninerved, copiously and pellucidly dotted, quite shining on both sides, somewhat paler beneath; cymes short, terminal; peduncles and pedicels angular; the latter continuous with the calyx and as long or somewhat shorter; tube of the calyx almost semi-globular, wrinkled-striate, extended beyond the ovary, hardly longer than the hemispheric smooth lid; petals four, minute, orbicular, sessile, quite free; anthers cordate-

roundish; style slender; stigma not dilated; ovary two-celled, convex at the summit; ovules several in each cell, covering and surrounding the placentas.

On the Strickland-River in New Guinea; W. Baeuerlen (Expedition of the Australian Geographic Society). Height as far as noted about 15 feet. Petioles less than half an inch long. Leaves measuring 3—4 inches in length, $1\frac{1}{2}$ —2 inches in breadth; lateral nerves rather numerous; peripheric vein slightly waved, not far from the margin. Primary peduncle $\frac{1}{3}$ — $\frac{2}{3}$ inch long; secondary peduncles mostly shorter, with generally two or three flowers on the summit. Bracteoles minute, almost deltoid, fugacious. Tube of the flowering calyx $\frac{1}{8}$ — $\frac{1}{6}$ inch long, as well as the lid shining; the latter membranous, four-nerved, not seceding into lobes. Petals only about $\frac{1}{10}$ inch long, singly deciduous. Stamens pluriseriate, the longest measuring about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch; filaments pale. Placentas short, quite lateral. Fruit as yet unknown.

This species approaches in many respects *E. laevigata*; but the branchlets are distinctly angular, the leaves longer, comparatively narrower and almost suddenly protracted into the apex, their dots are translucent, the calyx-tube is streaked, the petals are not cohering into an operculum, the anthers more globular, and the fruit may also be different.

The question is still open for discussion, whether that section of *Eugenia*, which is characterised by an eucalyptoid calyx, should be retained in the genus; if so, then unavoidably *Acicalyptus* in its totality, comprising already three Polynesian, now also (with inclusion of one of the two above described *Eugenias*) two Australian, several South-Asiatic and at least one Papuan species, must merge into *Eugenia*; but the genuine species of the latter genus hold precisely the same relation to *Acicalyptus*, as *Angophora* to *Eucalyptus*.—Regretably the name *Acicalyptus*, derived from an exceptional characteristic of the original species discovered, does not apply to most of the other forms, which must be considered congeneric. But it would appear, that *Acicalyptus* ought to be reduced to *Cleistocalyx*, published five years earlier by Blume, though the calyptriform portion of the calyx, well shown by his illustration (*Mus. Bot. Lugd. LVI*) is according to his description finally tearing into lobes. Closely cognate to this generic group of plants are also *Piliocalyx* and to some extent *Pleurocalyptus*, the latter as regards the dehiscence of its calyx being analogous to that series of species of *Eucalyptus*, which have in *E. terminalis* a leading representative. The fruit of *Pleurocalyptus* remained however unknown, and may prove capsular; that of *Piliocalyx* agrees with the generic characteristics of *Acicalyptus*, while the difference in the position of the ovules is rather sectional than generic. Some species of *Cleistocalyx* became recorded under *Syzygium*; but the typical form, on which Gaertner (after Samuel Brown) founded that genus, is *S. caryophyllaeum*; it is therefore referable to *Eugenia*, and *Syzygium* can thus not be so restricted, as to absorb *Cleistocalyx*, *Acicalyptus* and *Piliocalyx*. The scattered leaves of *Pleurocalyptus* render it unlikely, that its fruit will be that of an *Eugenia* or closely allied genus.

A CASE of alleged epithelioma is said, by Dr. Antoni, to have been cured by the application of an ointment, twice a day, consisting of 15 parts resorcin to 20 parts of vaseline.

DR. H. R. KELLY, of Galion, O., writes to the Cincinnati *Lancet-Clinic*, that a sponge, saturated with stronger ether, passed lightly over the surface of adhesive plaster, will cause it to stick firmly to the skin. No heat is necessary, and the plaster will adhere closely over the whole extent. Spirit of turpentine will act in the same way.

A PROPOSED RESEARCH LABORATORY.

AUSTRALIAN pharmacists will be glad to learn that there is every probability of the Research Laboratory which the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain proposes to found being at no distant day an accomplished fact. A recent issue of the *Pharmaceutical Journal* gives the details of the scheme recommended by the committee, and the discussion which took place thereon at a recent meeting reveals not only the great necessity which exists for such an institution, but the vast benefits which are likely to accrue to the cause of pharmacology from its establishment, supplying, as it will, the means by which all students who possess the requisite scientific knowledge and training will be able to conduct their researches under the most advantageous conditions, with little or no expense to themselves, and with all the resources and appliances of modern science at their command. It would, for instance, as the president pointed out, afford the means of repeating, from the point of view of pure pharmacy and chemistry, experiments having for their object the improvement of the formulæ of the British Pharmacopœia, and would afford special facilities for working out the chemistry of any new drug. There is still great confusion, and some danger, in dealing with the so-called aconitine of commerce, and the workers in the laboratory would be able to take this subject up, having all the necessary appliances and knowledge for working it out, with greater advantage than probably any other body of men. Then, again, further knowledge is required of the active principles and their value of belladonna root and its allies; and this and many other investigations could be very fittingly carried out in such a laboratory, which was also just the place where the question of standard and value of important drugs and chemicals used in medicine could be determined with something like finality, and in such a way that the reports and opinions published would be regarded as conclusive amongst men of science. Not the least interesting contribution to the discussion was that of Mr. Churchill, who complained that at the present time one-half of the medical profession, "instead of prescribing drugs which had been sought out with great care, prescribed Jones' essence of this and Smith's compound syrup of that," and that pharmacists were "rapidly drifting into the condition of being merely retailers of Jones' and Smith's compounds." There is, unfortunately, too much truth in the picture drawn by Mr. Churchill, which is applicable to Australasia no less than to Great Britain, and it is specially satisfactory to learn that it is within the "scheme" of the proposed laboratory to inquire into the virtues of these preparations, and to publish the results for the benefit of the medical and pharmaceutical professions. There are, we have no doubt, a good many manufacturers of the compounds and "patents" which at the present time form so large a portion of the pharmacist's stock-in-trade who view the proposal with anything but complacency, and, were it only for the revolution which the proposed laboratory is bound to effect in this respect, its establishment will be looked forward to with interest by pharmacists in the new as well as in the old world.

BERLIN has an hospital for horses. It is managed by a veterinary surgeon, an ex-captain of artillery, and a farmer. The grounds comprise 100 acres, and there are baths for horses amongst the numerous appliances provided.

THE metric system of weights and measures, which was adopted in many laboratories when first introduced, is said to be rapidly losing ground, having been the cause of many serious errors. The fact that the misplacement of a single dot will turn a comparatively harmless dose of medicine into a most deadly poison bears strongly against it.

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No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Editorial.

OUR FIRST HALF-YEAR.

WITH this issue the AUSTRALASIAN JOURNAL OF PHARMACY completes the first half-year of its existence. It is a recognised feature of literary enterprise that troubles and difficulties are necessarily incidental to the early life of a periodical, of whatsoever character. To the projectors of many products of the printing press, unhappily, there never comes the success which enables past trials to be regarded with complacency. Launched upon troubled waters, it is often their misfortune never to taste the sweets of a successful establishment. Issued under exceptionally favourable circumstances, since, in another form, we had held what we are pleased to consider a recognised place in the pharmaceutical world of Australasia for a number of years, the entire reorganisation of our staff of contributors, and the settlement of the hundred and one matters of detail entailed in the project of presenting what is practically a new magazine, were yet performed only with grave difficulty, and not without trepidation. That we were confident that our efforts would be rewarded is evidenced by our having acted upon our opinion that Australasian pharmacy demanded an extended advocacy of its interests, and that the establishment of an improved vehicle for the publication of knowledge and news interesting to the profession would be welcomed and supported. We trust to be excused some exultation in the fact that our anticipations have been realised even beyond our most sanguine expectations. We submit that the AUSTRALASIAN JOURNAL OF PHARMACY is not a mere trade journal. It is the organ of pharmacy, giving publicity to manufacturers' medicinal and chemical productions, and to the advertisements of those with whom pharmacists have business, but having in its advocacy of legal reforms essential to the well-being of the profession, and in the dissemination of scientific knowledge and pharmaceutical information, a purpose and a status such as no mere proprietary trade journal can ever hope to be assumed to possess. Our position is further supported by the fact that the editorial work of our JOURNAL has been of an honorary character throughout, and that it is issued under the immediate auspices of the PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA, whose register of members comprises not merely Victorian pharmacists, but whose *clientèle* extends to the whole of the colonies. While, therefore, it would be beneath our dignity to publish the complimentary letters which our improved appearance has elicited in all quarters, however much we value them, we may be permitted to refer to the gratifying fact that

many of our articles have been reprinted in English journals, while the Continental Press has done us the honour of presenting translations of them to French and German readers. This is a compliment of which any paper might be proud, and we trust to be excused a little self-congratulation upon the circumstance. While we are grateful that our efforts have been so well received, it shall be our earnest endeavour to "better the instruction" which experience and the growth of pharmacy may bring to us, and to maintain our position as the recognised organ of pharmacy throughout Australasia, meeting the demands upon us created by the increase in the importance of the interests which we have the honour to represent with ever increasing exertions and a liberal expenditure.

THE CULTIVATION OF MEDICINAL HERBS.

In our last issue Mr. D. M'Alpine gave a very interesting account of his visit to Messrs. W. H. Slater and Sons' medicinal herb grounds. And, we take it, the results achieved by the Messrs. Slater at Mitcham Grove, Box Hill, as recorded by Mr. M'Alpine, are such as, not merely the proprietors, but the community at large are to be heartily congratulated upon. It would appear that the enterprise in question is of limited extent, but that there is every promise of its development into a considerable and profitable industry is very conclusively shown. It is surely noteworthy that so competent an authority as the writer named should adopt the statement that the colonial-grown oil of lavender "has been considered superior to the finest grown anywhere." And Mr. M'Alpine's report speaks in scarcely less favourable terms concerning the many other plants used in the production of perfumes and medicines which have been successfully experimented upon at Messrs. Slater's estate. The report appropriately makes mention of M. Piesse's complimentary reference, in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, to the superiority of the Australian climate over even that of Southern France for the purposes of flower-growing. And, says Mr. M'Alpine, "I think it deserves to be put on record that it is equally adapted for the growth of a variety of medicinal plants." Messrs. Slater's chief difficulty would seem to have related to the procurement of labour; but, if this trouble would also occur in localities further removed from the metropolis, there is an important compensation in the fact that the expense and difficulty attending the handling and carriage of the products of medicinal plant culture would be very trifling, as compared with that of ordinary farm or garden produce. Very opportunely, our last New Zealand letter referred to the circumstance that the fields and roadsides of Northern Auckland abound with pennyroyal, showing the suitability of the climate and soil of the district named to the cultivation of herbs of medicinal value; and our correspondent somewhat anticipated these remarks in recommending the industry in question to the earnest attention of farmers and horticulturists. But the matter is of such moment that we make no apology for reiterating what has been already said upon it; and, indeed, are right glad of this opportunity of giving further publicity to what cannot be too widely known, and the dissemination of information concerning which we believe to be a public duty. Mr. M'Alpine's report gives much valuable information of a practical nature concerning the growing of the herbs and flowers from whence medicines and perfumes are extracted, and of the manures which have proved to be efficacious in their production; and we have no doubt that the gentleman referred to will willingly supply any further information which may be desired. To quote Mr. M'Alpine's remarks, in concluding his valued contribution to our May number— "The success which has attended Mr. Slater's efforts, with all the difficulties

incidental to starting and carrying on a new industry, proves what might be done were such efforts multiplied and extended. . . . I felt as I turned my steps homeward that it would be well for the colony and its people to have dotted here and there over its vast expanse a few such spots as Mitcham Grove, but on a more extended scale, where the plants which minister to man's luxury, or alleviate his pain, or infuse fresh vigour into him, might grow and flourish like the land itself."

PHARMACY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

CHEERING indeed to pharmacists throughout Australasia, whose eyes are directed to the forthcoming Conference, and who are even already congratulating themselves upon the benefits which can scarcely fail to result from its deliberations, is the record of the most recent addition to the ranks of our societies—the Pharmaceutical Association of South Australia. From its very inception, the Society displayed a vigour that gave promise of rapid development into a useful and influential organisation; the roll of members speedily included the names of the majority of the local chemists; a large number of assistants hastened to enter themselves as associates, with the view of qualifying themselves by honorary examinations for full membership; and month by month the reports which have been published in the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy* have been a record of steady progress and growth. At its earlier meetings the Society determined, or thought it advisable, that no State aid should be sought, and that they should endeavour to raise the tone of pharmacy by purely voluntary methods. Not the least interesting evidence of advance is the fact that already doubts are entertained as to the wisdom of this decision, and the tone of the discussion, as reported in our last issue, on the question of appointing a committee to consider the advisability of obtaining a Pharmacy Act for South Australia, leads us to hope that, ere long, they will in this matter follow in the course which has proved of such material advantage to pharmacy in Victoria. Among the objections urged against the suggested Act was that it might seriously embarrass, or unduly restrict, them in their business; one member feared that it might prevent chemists prescribing for slight ailments, which restriction, he said, would be severely felt by some; while another expressed the opinion that such restrictions could only be prevented by having influence in the Legislature, where there were several representatives of the medical profession to look after its interests. Our own opinion is that the dreaded medicoes would be found among the first and heartiest supporters of any measure that would tend to raise the status of the pharmacist, and that no attempt would be made to deprive the latter of any privilege to which custom had given him a kind of prescriptive right. But were it otherwise, we can scarcely believe that South Australian pharmacists will allow a possibility of this nature to frighten them; or that they hold the privilege of "prescribing for slight ailments" as of greater importance than the educational and social advantages which, they admit, would result to them from the passing of a Pharmacy Act. The great interest which has been displayed in the honorary examinations of the society shows that the rising generation of South Australian pharmacists are anxious to prove that they are something more than mere drug-sellers or vendors of patent medicines; and many of them would, no doubt, welcome such legislation as would place them on a level with their *confrères* in Victoria, and enable them to claim recognition at the hands of the pharmaceutical authorities of that colony. In their interests, as well as those of the present members of the society, we trust that, having once put their shoulders to the wheel, our South Australian friends will

not rest until they have obtained an Act that will do for their colony what has been more or less successfully achieved in Victoria; and in this effort they may rest assured of the sympathy and support of all who have the true interests of Australasian pharmacy at heart.

Notes on British Society Meetings.

"LANOLIN, its Preparation and Properties," was the title of a paper read at a recent meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. Lanolin, it would appear, is a substance which is destined at no distant date to take a high place as an agent in skin diseases and dermatological applications generally.

THE annual business meeting of the Edinburgh Chemists' Assistants and Apprentices' Association was held on 14th April, when Mr. J. T. Grant was announced the winner of the Ainslie Pharmacy Prize Competition, and was presented with the prize by Mr. Ainslie, to whom a cordial vote of thanks was passed for the deep interest he had taken in the welfare of the Association.

At the last annual meeting of the Glasgow Auxiliary of the Society for the Suppression of the Opium Trade, the following motion was adopted:—"That this meeting calls upon Government to remove all pressure from China in regard to the opium trade, and allow her to take whatever steps she may think proper for dealing with the drug."

At a recent meeting of the Manchester Section of the Society of Chemical Industry it was stated that M. Chevreul, who had recently celebrated his hundredth birthday, had intimated his intention to revise and complete his researches on fats, "after which he proposed to devote his spare time to the neglected correspondence of fifty years." As Dominie Sampson would say, this is truly "prodigious."

THE Law Committee of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland reported to the monthly meeting of the council, on 7th April, that a Pharmaceutical Chemists' Protection Society had been founded in Belfast, of which Dr. Whitaker was president, and recommended that the society should be authorised to use the name of the Council in prosecutions for illegal trading in suitable cases. The report was adopted.

THE Vice-President of the Society of Chemical Industry in Manchester, at a recent meeting, exhibited the new compound, named saccharine. Its chemical name is benzoyl sulphonic imide. It is a white powder, and crystallises from its aqueous solution in thick, short prisms, sparingly soluble in cold, freely in warm water. Alcohol, ether, glucose, etc., dissolved freely, it forms salts, having powerful saccharine taste. One part in 10,000 of water gives an intensely sweet solution. It is moderately antiseptic, unchanged in the human system, and is about 230 times sweeter than cane sugar. Dr. Stutzer, of Bonn, has carefully investigated the physiological properties, and says it has no injurious effects on the stomach. It has been given to diabetic patients without their feeling any ill effects.

THE report submitted at the last anniversary meeting of the Chemical Society, in London, showed a very prosperous condition. The net increase of Fellows during the year was 71, bringing the total up to 1431. The number of papers submitted had increased from 67 in the previous year to 101, this being the largest amount of work accomplished in any year but one during the history of the society. The financial statement showed the income from invested funds, subscriptions, etc., to be £3742 15s. 4d., and the expenditure, £3432 15s. 2d. The following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year:—

Vice-presidents—Mr. David Howard and Professor J. Dewar, M.A., F.R.S., in room of Dr. E. Schunch and Mr. W. Weldon (deceased). As members of Council—Messrs. J. A. R. Newlands, S. W. Pickering, M.A., W. Ramsay, Ph.D., and Thomas Stevenson, M.D., in room of Messrs. E. Atkinson, Ph.D., G. C. Foster, F.R.S., Ludwig Mond, and C. O'Sullivan, F.R.S.

Notes From Foreign Journals.

ACCORDING to the *National Druggist* there are now pharmaceutical associations in upwards of thirty States of the American Union.

THE *American Pharmacist* for April reprints from our February number Mr. Bosisto's paper on "Shellac," but—we have no doubt unintentionally—omits to make the usual acknowledgment.

"NATURE" states that a spring of mineral water was recently discovered in the very centre of St. Petersburg. In composition the water resembles Staraya Russa, or Kreutznach, and in taste it is quite similar to natural seltzer.

FROM a London paper we learn that a "Homœopathic League is being organised, with the object of making known, by lectures, public meetings, and the distribution of literature, the advantages of homœopathic treatment."

AN American paper states that the Sultan of Turkey has recently engaged two German pharmacists to devote themselves entirely to the service of his court, the salary of each being equal to £1000 a year, with board and lodging in the palace.

ACCORDING to a writer in the *Bibliotheca Sacra*, £25,000,000 were spent for opium in China during 1881. Over fifty millions of people are computed to be using this drug. Seven thousand tons of opium were sent during the year from India to China.

THE Birmingham correspondent of a London paper writes:—"The profit on a patented soap must be enormous. We hear that a local firm of soap manufacturers have recently engaged a Royal Academician to paint a special picture for reproduction as a show-card."

AT Sunderland recently, a drug and patent medicine dealer told his assistant to paint some window tickets, and on the latter refusing, on the ground that it was not his work, discharged him. The assistant sued his late employer for 12s. 3d. wages due, and obtained an order, but without costs.

SOME idea of the importance of the cultivation of olives in the south of France may be formed from the fact that the average value of the crop in the five departments where they flourish best is £1,200,000. This year it will be in excess of that amount. The olive tree requires very little attention, and attains a great age.

THE appointment of Sir H. E. Roseoe, M.P., as President of the British Association for 1887 is spoken of by a London contemporary as beyond doubt the best appointment in every respect. The meeting is to be held in Manchester; and Sir H. Roseoe's position as a scientist of the first order, his connection with the Victoria University, and the work he has done with regard to the education question, eminently fit him for the post of President of the Manchester meeting.

SPEAKING of the Victorian Court in the Colonial Exhibition, "Paracelsus" (*British and Colonial Druggist*), writes:—"The collection of specimens illustrating the *Eucalyptus* series will undoubtedly be found the most important and complete ever seen in Europe, and should place before pharmacists an amount of practically useful information, of which the value can scarcely be assessed. The "Bosisto" exhibit of raw and manufactured products alone will take more than one day to

study properly, as this, although chiefly devoted to the 'gum trees,' of which the colony is justly proud, also includes a variety of other products; not the least interesting is the Victorian opium, which appears—I have not yet had time to examine analytically—to be of very fine quality. The plants from which it is derived are tall poppies anyhow, as the dried stem now before me testifies, being nearly ten feet high from root to capsule.

The *Lancet* has reason to believe that the eminent pathologists, Sir James Paget, Professor Burdon Sanderson, and Dr. Lauder Brunton, have, together with Sir H. L. Sloane, who initiated the matter, consented to serve on the Commission to inquire into M. Pasteur's method of inoculation for hydrophobia; and that the Government intend to seek in addition the services of a few distinguished physicians, including Sir W. Jenner. As soon as the details are arranged the Commission are expected to proceed to Paris, personally to investigate M. Pasteur's proceedings and their results.

Referring to the Colonial Exhibition, the *British and Colonial Druggist* compliments the Australasian colonies upon the completeness, attractiveness, and practical value of their several displays. "Victoria, perhaps, leads the way with some 110 items, shown by about 500 exhibitors, the President of the Melbourne Commission (Mr. Joseph Bosisto, M.P.), who has already arrived in England, being himself responsible for a magnificent collection of vegetable products and preparations, including, of course, *Eucalypti*, with which his name has so long been specially associated."

A curious case came before the Liverpool County Court recently, when an elderly lady sued a dentist for £5, moneys paid for a set of false teeth, which were alleged to be useless, as they would not "bite" properly. The plaintiff, in order to prove her case, fitted the teeth into her mouth, and exhibited their action to his Honour. The defendant stated that everything possible had been done to render the teeth satisfactory, and that the reason they would not bite was that the plaintiff had not held her mouth straight when the impression was taken. The case was adjourned to enable the parties to come to an amicable arrangement.

In an article on the cultivation of tobacco in England, the *British and Colonial Druggist* writes:—"England should not wait for her younger children to give her lessons in this kind of material progress, especially when the moral is such an obvious one, but even redundantly-fertile Australasia is not satisfied to let things stop as they are in this respect. We understand that Victoria has within her breast a very laudable ambition; she has a notion that she could grow (amongst other things) 'English peppermint' and 'Mitcham lavender,' and she has not only a notion on that subject, but she is going to have a good try at it before very long."

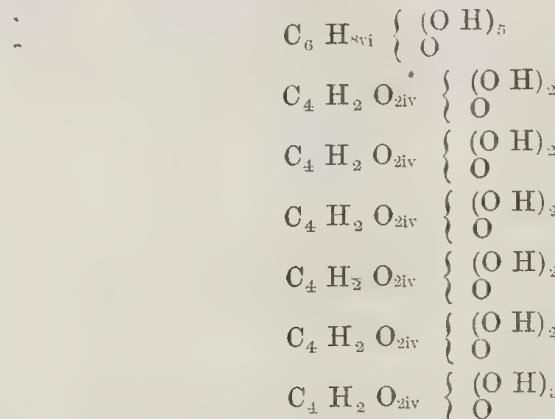
From the *Pharmaceutical Journal* we learn that Señor C. Torretti, an Italian, who was formerly professor of chemistry and pharmacology in the Medical Faculty of La Paz, Bolivia, has published a letter in *El Ferro Carril*, Santiago, alleging that the honour of discovering cocaine does not belong to Niemann, who is reputed to have first prepared it in Germany in 1859. It was, he says, isolated in the "humble" laboratory of la Botica y Droguería Boliviana, by his predecessor in the directorship of that establishment, Señor Pizzi, in 1857, at the suggestion of the celebrated Austrian traveller, Tschudy. This he knows to have been the case from manuscripts left by Señor Pizzi, as it can be confirmed by Herr Tschudy and by Dr. Aquiles Reid, an old and well-known resident in Valparaiso.

It is generally conceded (writes the *American Pharmacist*) that the patent medicine man is not at all modest when he comes to speak of his own wares, but we lately saw an advertisement of a much-heralded plaster that puts the Liver Cure ads. to blush. Here is an extract from it:—"It is composed of vegetable gums

from the cedars of Lebanon, Norway pine, Canada fir, together with myrrh, camphor, guaiac. These, by our process, are made exactly like fresh gums exuding from the trees. The fragrance of Blank's Buncombe Plasters destroys the germs of infectious disorders. Disease floating on the air will not affect the wearer of Blank's Buncombe Plasters. He is surrounded by an aroma of health, and his system saturated with the essence of healthful forest gums. His veins are full of the tonic of the woods." Now we know that all we have to do to become disease proof is just to put one of these plasters on our back and laugh at the doctor.

A VICTIM OF QUACKERY.—*The British and Colonial Druggist* tells the following sad tale, which, it is to be feared, is only one of many such cases—"An inquest was held recently at St. Giles's Coroner's Court touching the death of William M'Gowan, 33, who had been found dead at his lodgings. The evidence showed that the deceased was engaged to be married, and as the day approached he became nervous. He consulted Dr. Carrington relative to his health, and was informed that the ideas he was entertaining were delusions, but he persisted in them. On the 8th inst. he went to Mr. Fitzgerald's, in Little Earl-street, and bought three-penny worth of carbolic acid. That evening he was found lying dead across his bed. A police constable was called in, and he took charge of a mineral water bottle containing carbolic acid, also a wine glass. Dr. Carrington stated the cause of death was carbolic acid poisoning; and the shopman said that about one and a half ounce had been taken from the quantity he had supplied the deceased. The coroner said no doubt the deceased had been reading some of the trashy advertisements and books issued by quacks. This unsettled his mind, and he fell a victim to false ideas. A verdict of suicide, while labouring under derangement of mind, was returned."

THE PLEASURES OF CHEMISTRY.—This is what one of our transatlantic contemporaries says about it:—"One of the most attractive sciences, and one with which we have necessarily much in common, is chemistry. We know of nothing more refreshing after a hard day's work than to relax the mind with a dreamy reflection upon, say, the derivatives of Metanitrobenzylamidoxine and Mannitrobenzylazoximebenzyl, or the properties of Phenoxydiphenylmethylphosphonium iodide PMe Ph₂I. OPh; the OPh being kept prominently in view. Truly we have much to be thankful for." But why didn't they manage the formula a little better over there? We always thought, until now, that formulæ were Cousin Jonathan's strong points. Why, even our PARACELSUS could do better than that; but here is a little one from the last edition of *Naquet*.



It is very simple. Mr. Berthelot discovered it, called it *Mannitartaric acid*, drew its formula, as above, and he isn't dead yet even.—*Brit. and Col. Drug.*

M. PASTEUR ON DOG-BITES AND WOLF-BITES.—M. Pasteur read a paper recently at the Academy of Sciences before a large and attentive audience. The famous *savant* said he had treated 726 persons of all European nationalities, and

some Americans. 688 of these were dog-bitten and 38 wolf-bitten. Only one death from rabies took place among the former, whereas three out of the 19 Russians from Smolensk had been victims to that disease. M. Pasteur then read statistics carefully obtained by the different Mayors of the French Communes to show how relatively harmless the bites of mad dogs are compared with those of wolves. The statistics reached as far back as two centuries, and showed that about 82 persons bitten by wolves died. M. Pasteur has not, however, apparently obtained information as to the degree to which persons so bitten were cauterised. The wounds of the Russians from Smolensk were literally burned into by their village surgeons, wherever it was possible to burn them, almost immediately after they were bitten. Goloweki, the last to die, was besieged for a whole night in a tree by the ferocious wolf, and was not thus cauterised for more than 14 hours. The other two moujiks had wounds which no red-hot irons could get at. M. Pasteur, though deeply affected by the death of the three Russians, thinks that he had an important success in keeping alive so many as 16, inasmuch as in Russia wolf-bites are held to be incurable. Nevertheless, he is still unsatisfied, and hopes to modify his treatment in a way to render it more efficacious. He frankly admitted that the greater virulence of the wolf-bite might be accounted for by its much greater depth and the number of wounds inflicted upon each bitten person. It is not etiquette to applaud at a public sitting of the Institute, but after the proceedings were brought to an end there was a rush on to M. Pasteur for the purpose of expressing sympathy and admiration.

Victoria.

PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA.

THE monthly meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria was held at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, Melbourne, on Wednesday, the 9th June, 1886.

Present—Messrs. Blackett, Francis, Strutt, and Tompsitt.

The president (Mr. C. R. Blackett) in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Apologies were received from Messrs. Brind and Owen.

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION.

The following persons, having made the necessary declaration, were registered as pharmaceutical chemists:—

Arthur M. Darken, 67 Swanston-street, Melbourne, passed Modified Examination, Victoria.

Edwin T. Church, Glenferrie, Hawthorn, passed Major Examination, Victoria.

Arthur S. Locke, 183 Bourke-street, Melbourne, passed Major Examination, Victoria.

Walter G. Strover, 87 Chapel-street, Prahran, passed Major Examination, Victoria.

NAMES RESTORED TO PHARMACEUTICAL REGISTER OF VICTORIA.

Geo. C. Powell, South Melbourne.

Chas. R. Cookson, 2 Drummond-street, Carlton.

APPRENTICES' INDENTURES REGISTERED.

Mary R. Rundle, Wangaratta, apprenticed to Mrs. S. Rundle, Wangaratta.

Crisp M. Harridge, Stanley, apprenticed to Mr. C. C. Harridge.

Walter Rookwood Anderson, Windsor, apprenticed to Mr. W. Anderson.

SALE AND USE OF POISONS ACT.

Certificates were granted to

Henry Colly Clarkson, Carisbrook.
Chas. Moore, Katamite.

THE QUARTERLY EXAMINATIONS.

The examiners report as follows:—The Preliminary Examination—eight candidates, five passed. Modified Examination—one candidate passed. Materia Medica—five students, none of whom passed. Botany—all the students who presented themselves (five) failed. Chemistry—there were two students who presented themselves for this subject, both of whom passed. Practical Pharmacy—nine candidates for the final examination, of which four passed.

The following are the names of those who passed in their order of merit:—

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION, 1ST JUNE.

Valerio Brunetti, Fitzroy.
Henry Thompson, South Yarra.
A. E. S. Vernon, St. Arnaud.
John William Harris, Beaufort.
Alexander Cathie, Beaufort.

PRACTICAL CHEMISTRY, 2ND JUNE.

C. A. Graves, Fitzroy.
W. H. Wolfenden, Melbourne.

MATERIA MEDICA AND BOTANY, 2ND JUNE.

Five candidates presented themselves, but none passed.

PRACTICAL PHARMACY EXAMINATION, MAJOR (BEFORE THE WHOLE BOARD),
3RD JUNE.

Edwin T. Church, Hawthorn.
Walter G. Strover, South Melbourne.
Arthur Samuel Locke, Melbourne.
R. R. M'Kean, Melbourne.

MODIFIED EXAMINATION, 3RD JUNE.

Harry London, Ballarat.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia was held at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, Melbourne, on Friday, the 11th June, 1886.

Present—Messrs. Brinsmead, Baker, R. P. Francis, Gamble, Huntsman, Hooper, Harrison, Kingsland, Nelson, and Tompsitt.

The vice-president, Mr. J. Brinsmead, in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

An apology was received from Mr. Blackett.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

The following new members, having conformed to the necessary forms of application, were balloted for and duly elected:—

Mr. Frederick Holmes, Brisbane-street, Launceston.
Mr. William Barrett Hall, Thames, New Zealand.
Mr. William Johnstone Bowen, 45 Collins-street, Melbourne.

THE INTERCOLONIAL PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

The committee furnished an interim report.

Several replies having been received to the circular issued in May last, a full report will be laid before the next meeting, when the suggestions from all the colonies have been received.

THE ADOPTION OF THE NEW PHARMACOPÆIA.

Communications were addressed to the Medical Society of Victoria, and the Victorian branch of the British Medical Association, asking that some action should be taken by the medical profession as to the adoption of the new Pharmacopœia, and replies were received stating that the matter would be considered at the next meeting of the societies.

THE CHEMISTS AND DRUGGISTS' DEFENCE FUND.

It was resolved that a circular should be drafted, setting forth the objects of the proposed association, and that a copy should be forwarded to every chemist in the colony.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters were read from Mr. Bosisto, referring to the very cordial reception accorded him by the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, and from Mr. Bowen, who, at the time of writing, was in San Francisco, *en route* to London. A lengthy communication was read from Mr. Francis Forrest, the representative of the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy* in London, speaking in highest terms of the prospects of the journal with English and foreign advertisers. A letter was read from a medical practitioner complaining that the handbills of an advertising chemist were left at his house. That matter was one with which the Council could not deal, it being entirely a matter of good taste on the part of the person who issued the bills.

MR. A. H. JACKSON, B.Sc., F.C.S.

This gentleman, who arrived on the 6th inst., had his first interview with the Council, and was accorded a most hearty reception. Mr. Jackson will enter on active duty at the end of the present month.

Financial and general business closed the meeting.

SOUTH SUBURBAN CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.

THE quarterly meeting of this association was held on Tuesday, 1st June, 1886.

Present—Mr. Brinsmead (chair), Messrs. Webb, Harrison, Pleasance, Dalton, Witt, Cockram, and Chamberlin.

Minutes of two meetings read and confirmed.

Discussion on Mr. Brinsmead's letter *re* storekeepers' charges was re-opened, the general opinion of the meeting that it would be injudicious to lower the prices of articles sold by storekeepers in order to compete with them appeared to be general. Mr. Brinsmead had complied with Rule 11 S.S.C.A., so that he had now discretionary power to act in his district as he thought justifiable.

Letter from Mr. Pleasance stating that he was selling Pears' soap at English price, referring his answer to secretary's letter to the next meeting. After discussion, the general price obtainable seemed to be a little in advance on English price for glycerine, the rest according to list. It was proposed by Mr. Chamberlin that the letter be received. Seconded by Mr. Witt. Carried.

Letter from Mr. Bowen, regretting his inability to attend the last meeting, and wishing the association every success. Proposed by Mr. Harrison that Mr. Bowen's letter be received. Seconded by Mr. Cockram. Carried.

Telegram from Mr. Mayne, Sydney, for twelve copies of S.S.C.A. price lists and rules to assist them in forming an association. Mr. Dalton had kindly forwarded the lists and congratulatory letter.

Mr. Brinsmead, in proposing the telegram and action taken be received, complimented the S.S.C.A. on this recognition of the endeavour that had been made to produce unanimity and a bond of camaraderie among the pharmacists generally, and requested that a special note be taken of it, trusting that this would not be the last communication that would be received from Sydney. Seconded by Mr. Webb. Carried.

Letter from Mr. Beichman (Mr. L. C. Dunne), pharmaceutical chemist, Brisbane, requesting copy of list and rules as basis to form a society in Brisbane.

Mr. Brinsmead, in again proposing the letter be received, stated that he could only endorse his former remarks, trusting we should again hear from Mr. Beichman.

The balance-sheet to date, signed by auditors, was handed in. Mr. Dalton moved that it be received. Seconded by Mr. Witt. Carried.

Mr. Chamberlin gave notice of motion that, as the objects for which the association was formed were now an accomplished fact, and expenses considerably reduced, he would propose at next meeting the annual subscription be reduced to 5s., the annual supper on the same basis as that of the Pharmaceutical Society, 5s. each. The meeting then adjourned.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of the Medical Society of Victoria was held in the Hall, Albert-street, on the 2nd June; the president, Dr. Jamieson, occupying the chair. Dr. J. F. Wilkinson, of the Melbourne Hospital, was elected a member of the society. The president, on behalf of the committee, drew attention, at the suggestion of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, to the new edition of the *British Pharmacopæia*, and, on the motion of Dr. James Robertson, seconded by Dr. Williams, it was resolved that the members of the Medical Society of Victoria formally agree to adopt the new pharmacopœia as a guide in prescribing. The hon. secretary announced that the scale of medical fees adopted by the society was out of print, and that at the next meeting of the committee a revised scale would be prepared. The new scale would probably be more detailed than the original one, and members who wished to suggest alterations should communicate with him without delay. Dr. C. S. Ryan read a paper on a remarkable case of strangulated hernia upon which he had operated with success. Dr. Springthorpe read notes of a case in which he found a large quantity of biliary pigment in a hydatid cyst. Numerous pathological specimens were exhibited by Dr. J. Williams and Professor Allen.

PROFESSOR HUXLEY gives the proper weight of man as 154lb., made up as follows:—Muscles and their appurtenances, 68lb.; skeleton, 24lb.; skin, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; fat, 28lb.; brain, 3lb.; thoracic viscera, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; abdominal viscera, 11lb.; blood which would drain from the body, 7lb. The heart of such a man should beat 75 times a minute, and he should breathe 15 times a minute. In 24 hours he would vitiate 1750 cubic feet of pure air to the extent of 1 per cent. A man, therefore, of the weight mentioned should have 800 cubic feet of well ventilated space. He would throw off by the skin 18oz. of water, 300 grains of solid matter, and 400 grains of carbonic acid every 24 hours; and his total loss during that period would be 6lb. of water, and a little more than 2lb of other matter.

The Month.

THE new rule exacting a registration fee of 6d. from all patients attending the Ballarat Hospital gave a return for three days of £6 18s. It is estimated that revenue to the amount of £300 will be raised by these fees.

MR. JOSEPH BOSISTO, writing from London on the 22nd April, speaks in glowing terms of the very flattering manner he has been received at Bloomsbury-square. He was invited to the annual dinner of the society, to be held on the 18th May, and an account of which we hope to give in our next.

AT the meeting of the Council of the School of Mines, Ballarat, held on Wednesday night, the 9th June, Mr. J. Martell's proposal that lectures in chemistry should be given in the different state schools of Ballarat by the school lecturers was unanimously adopted, conditionally on its meeting with the approval of the local boards of advice.

WE regret exceedingly to state that the health of Mr. E. Bage (Messrs. Felton, Grimwade and Co.) is in anything but a satisfactory state, and he has been again compelled to give up active business. We understand Mr. Bage leaves by the next mail for a six months' trip to Honolulu, and hope the change and rest will restore him to good health.

AT a meeting of the Medical Board, held at the offices of the Central Board of Health on Friday, the 4th June, the following medical gentlemen were registered and admitted to practise in this colony:—Wm. Finlay, M.D., San Francisco; Geo. Rd. Lawrence, M.R.C.S., L.S.A. (Lond.), Fitzroy; Hy. Robt. Salmon, M.B., Ch.B., Melbourne; and Geo. Thos. Howard, M.B. and Ch.B., Melbourne.

MR. PEARSON, the agricultural chemist to the Victorian Government, has inspected the plots of thistles at Bungaree which he treated some weeks ago with various chemicals, and found that in those treated with acids and with chloride of lime the thistles were destroyed to a depth of 18in. He is now trying a preparation of arsenic, and his report on all his experiments may be expected shortly.

INFORMATION has been received that at the recent examinations at the Royal College of Surgeons, London, Dr. Arthur Augustus Fletcher, son of Dr. E. Fletcher, of Carlton, obtained the diploma of M.R.C.S.E. Dr. A. A. Fletcher had previously taken the degrees of M.B. and Ch.B., Melbourne University, and was for twelve months—1884-5—one of the resident surgeons at the Melbourne Hospital.

THE students at the College of Pharmacy visited the Botanical Gardens with Mr. D. M'Alpine, the lecturer on botany, on the 1st inst., and examined chiefly fruits and seeds belonging to various medicinal plants. On the 2nd inst. there was a terminal examination in botany, which resulted in the students being placed in the following order of merit:—Steedman, Edwards, Cranstown, Blackie, Turner, Netherway, Roth, and Cowl.

DR. R. H. I. FETHERSTON (son of Dr. Fetherston, of Melbourne) has taken honours in three subjects in Edinburgh. By the last mail information has been received that this young Victorian has been invited by Professor Greenfield to undertake the office of demonstrator of practical pathology in the University of Edinburgh. This he has accepted. Mr. Fetherston was previously demonstrator of anatomy, Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland.

THE Council of Agricultural Education took into consideration at its meeting on Thursday, 1st June, a letter from a French company to be formed in this colony for the purpose of giving special attention to such branches of agriculture as the cultivation of the vine, olive, scented plants for perfumery, medicinal

plants, etc. It was also proposed to establish an agricultural college in connection with the company, and the council was asked to make a grant to the company of one acre of land for every £10 of its subscribed capital. The council decided that it had no power to make such a grant.

THE quarterly examinations under the Pharmacy Act of Victoria were held at the College of Pharmacy on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th instant. There were eight candidates for the Preliminary Examination, of which five passed. Five students attended the College Examination for *materia medica* and botany, and two for chemistry. The two chemistry candidates passed, but none of those for *materia medica* and botany succeeded in passing. Nine candidates presented themselves for practical pharmacy, and four passed, and one passed the Modified Examination. The percentage of successful candidates is smaller than usual.

Mr. WILLIAM BOWEN, the President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, who is at present making a tour of the world, writes from San Francisco, under date the 20th April. Mr. Bowen speaks of the kindness shown him while in Auckland, New Zealand, by Mr. Graves Aickin, a gentleman who some years ago visited Melbourne, and is well known to many of our readers. Mr. Bowen has visited the College of Pharmacy in San Francisco, and reports favourably of the pharmaceutical training in the State of California, which he considers resembles that adopted in Victoria, excepting that in America the examination is a voluntary matter. Mr. Bowen expected to reach London about the first week in June.

IT is gratifying to find Victorian students again successful in the class prize-lists of the University of Edinburgh. Among the successful students were Mr. Abraham Wheeler, of Melbourne, who took second class honours in practical chemistry; Mr. Percy Wisewould, of Melbourne, an old student at the College of Pharmacy, who obtained full marks and a medal in connection with the practical examination for anatomy for students of the third year, and second class honours in *materia medica*; Mr. John M'Naughton, of Victoria, who secured second class honours in surgery for seniors, and a similar distinction in the junior division for midwifery; Mr. R. H. J. Fetherston, of Melbourne, who carried off first class honours in *materia medica*, second class honours in the junior division of general pathology, and a similar distinction in practical pathology; and Mr. Inglis Taylor, of Melbourne, who obtained second class honours in the junior division of the practice of physic.

THE principal business transacted at the meeting of the Melbourne University Council on Monday, 31st May, was the appointment of professors for the chairs of chemistry and mental and moral philosophy. The first name on the list of candidates selected by the committee in London for the post of professor of chemistry was that of Dr. Masson, a son of the professor of English literature at Edinburgh University, and himself a master of arts, a doctor of science, and fellow of the Chemical Society. Dr. Masson, who is 28 years of age, was eventually, on the motion of Professor Irving, unanimously elected to the post. The appointment of Dr. Laurie from the lectureship on mental and moral philosophy to the professorial chair without competition was moved by Professor M'Coy, and finally carried by nine votes to six.

AMONG the passengers on board the P. and O. s.s. *Tasmania*, which arrived on the 6th June, was Mr. Alfred H. Jackson, B.Sc., F.C.S., etc., who has come out from England to fill the post of Director of the College of Pharmacy. Mr. Jackson reports a very pleasant passage, and brings with him introductions from Prof. Sir H. E. Roseoe, under whose guidance he has worked for many years in the laboratories of the Owen's College, Manchester. Mr. Jackson left London with the good wishes of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, and the

cordial congratulations of his old teachers—Professors Redwood, Bentley, and Attfield—from the society's school in Bloomsbury-square, who look forward to his colonial appointment as a means of maintaining the education and examination of pharmacists in Australia in harmony with that in Great Britain.

MR. A. N. PEARSON, agricultural chemist to the Victorian Government, has been engaged in making a series of experiments to determine some efficient and economical method of exterminating the Californian thistle. Mr. Pearson's experiments were made at Leigh Creek, near the border of the Bungaree shire, on a piece of ground thickly covered with thistles. The land was divided into 80 small blocks, and 10 different chemicals were used—sulphuric acid, hydro-chloric acid, chloride of lime, chlorine water, common salt, sodic hyposulphite, sodic sulphide, caustic soda, and vinegar. The only chemical which killed everything, and stopped all growth from the surface, was chloride of lime, by means of which all plant life was destroyed to a depth of 18 inches. The cost of applying it for three seasons would be about £5 5s. per acre. Mr. Pearson points out that there are at present probably not more than 100 acres of land in the whole colony which are completely taken up by the Californian thistle.

New South Wales.

SYDNEY, 12th June, 1886.

THE thirty-fifth annual commemoration of the University of Sydney, which took place in the Great Hall of the University on Saturday afternoon, 29th May, was honoured by the presence of his Excellency the Governor, Lord Carrington, the Hon. Lady Carrington, and suite. Various degrees having been conferred upon gentlemen who had become entitled to receive them, the scholars and prizemen were then presented, and this part of the proceedings was followed by the names of benefactors of the University being commemorated. The Chancellor (his Honour Sir William M. Manning, LL.D.) next delivered an exhaustive address, and this was succeeded by an able address by his Excellency the Governor, who, after impressing upon the students that not only their own future, but that of the country in a high sense belonged to them, concluded as follows:—"You should prepare yourselves to be the depositaries of this power when it comes into your hands, so that you may exercise it to your own honour for the benefit of your country, and bring back, at the close, the glory of your labour, and lay it at the feet of your University." By the way, I might add that among those present were two real girl graduates, who have secured their B.A.

At the usual monthly meeting of the Royal Society, on 2nd June, a paper was read on a "New Species of Ardisia from New Guinea," by Baron Ferd. von Müller, K.C.M.G., F.R.S. Mr. Charles Moore, F.L.S., explained the distribution of these plants, how that one species is found in Madagascar, some in Queensland and New South Wales, and one in New Guinea, which was obtained when H.M.S. *Nelson* visited the island, and is the solitary instance of an ardisia being found so far to the North. Mr. Moore called attention to the connection between the fauna and the flora of Australia and New Guinea, marsupials being common to both, likewise the eucalypts and the red cedar. Sir Joseph Hooker was of the opinion that the cedar that supplies the timber of which cigar boxes are made is identical with the Australian and New Guinea cedar, and Mr. Moore found that the farther North the cedar grew the more inferior its wood became. Professor Anderson Stuart read two papers on the "Poison of the Daphnandra," by Dr. J. L. Bancroft, F.L.S., late of New

Guinea, and now of Brisbane. These papers relate to the discovery of a powerful poisonous principle in these and other Australian plants, and to several experiments on the guinea pig, whereby the symptoms produced were observed. The professor called attention to the large field of study open to the medical profession of New South Wales in collecting the medicinal plants, and studying their properties, with a view of applying them in medicine, and that Australian flora would doubtless yield many principles of great value in therapeutics.

The annual general meeting of the Royal Society was held on Wednesday night, 5th May. Professor Liversidge presided. Several new members were elected. The following officers were appointed for the ensuing year:—President, C. Rolleston; vice-presidents, H. C. Russell and Dr. Leibius; hon. treasurer, R. Hunt; hon. secretaries, Professor Liversidge and F. B. Kyngdon; members of council, H. G. A. Wright, C. Moore, C. K. Mackellar, M.L.C., C. S. Wilkinson, P. R. Pedley, and J. A. Thompson. The president delivered his annual address, which contained short sketches of the career of the members who had been removed by death during the past year. The address showed that twenty-seven new members had been elected, the number now standing at 492. The financial affairs were satisfactory, and the debt on the building had been reduced to £800. Fourteen hundred volumes of various kinds had been received during the year, and 390 volumes had been purchased. The inability of the society, owing to want of funds, to offer sufficient encouragement to original communications on subjects such as "The Chemistry of the Australian Gums and Resins," "The Tin Deposits of New South Wales," "The Iron Ores," and "The Silver Ores of New South Wales," &c., was deplored. The Government having resumed the house and grounds at Watson's Bay, the biological laboratory had been closed. He was of opinion that arrangements should be made to bring about a federation of the members of the scientific societies throughout Australasia, on the lines of the British Association, with a view to holding the first general meeting in Sydney on the 100th anniversary of the colony, and he intimated that he would be glad to receive the names of intending members so that the preliminary steps could be taken.

Among recent insolvencies is that of Henry Allan Fisher, of Hunter-street, Sydney, chemist and importer, and also of the firm of Fisher and Ferguson, of Bond-street, Sydney, manufacturers and importers. Liabilities, £10,834 13s. 7d.; assets, £8855 5s. 1d. Mr. L. T. Lloyd, official assignee.

An adjourned meeting of the members of the Chemists and Druggists' Trade Association was held at the Board of Pharmacy's rooms, Phillip-street, on Thursday, 22nd May, Mr. A. J. Watt in the chair. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. Several matters of importance were discussed relative to the tariff, and other business of immediate interest was transacted. Mr. J. S. Sayers, of 32 Bridge-street, was appointed secretary to the association. The prospectus of the association is as follows:—The establishing and maintaining a better understanding amongst the members, protecting the interests of the trade generally, and the consideration of all matters appertaining thereto. In consequence of the Medical Practitioners Bill now before Parliament, which will seriously affect the chemists and druggists of New South Wales, and also the competition of other trades, it has been found absolutely necessary to unite and collectively consider what is the most desirable course to pursue to frustrate the efforts which are now being made to deprive the chemists of several privileges which they have so long enjoyed in this colony. The register already contains the names of fifty (50) members. Messrs. Elliott Bros. and the directors of the Australian Drug Company have each forwarded a donation of ten guineas with a promise of annual support; Messrs. Burgoyne, Burbidges and Co., of London, three guineas. The committee

therefore earnestly hope that every chemist will do his utmost to enhance the prosperity of the association, for without union there can be no strength. Several matters of great importance are now being discussed. Any information respecting the association can be obtained from the secretary, Mr. J. S. Sayers.

In the New South Wales Assembly on Friday, the 4th June, Dr. Tarrant moved the second reading of the Medical Practitioners' Act Amendment Bill, which was intended to prevent persons other than those who satisfied the Medical Board as to their qualifications from practising in medicine.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE annual meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales was held on the 10th inst. in the society's rooms, Phillip-street; Mr. H. Larmer (president of the society) in the chair. There was a good attendance of members. The business for which the meeting had been convened was the election of four members of council and the reception of the annual report and balance-sheet.

The report, which was read by the secretary, was as follows:—"In presenting its tenth annual report your council has reason to be satisfied with the annual progress made by the society. Your council has to report that its lecturer, Mr. C. Quayle, delivered during the past year two courses of lectures on Chemistry, *Materia Medica*, Pharmacy, and Toxicology; and that he has been engaged to deliver two more courses (26 lectures), to commence this month. In the course of the period embraced by this report 49 students presented themselves for examination, of whom 26 passed, and most of them obtained a high percentage of marks. The new synopsis of examination will now be brought into use, and your council trusts that the examinations under it may have the effect of creating a superior class of chemists, because it may reasonably be assumed the more stringent the examinations the greater will be the value of the certificates obtained thereby. Attention is again being directed to the advisability of bringing about an intercolonial pharmaceutical conference, and the matter will be brought forward at the next meeting of your council. Steps are being taken to incorporate your society, and a bill on the lines of the English Act has been for some time in the hands of an attorney, and is now ready for presentation to Parliament. When this is passed into law it will place our society on a legal basis. It will give to the chemist a social position and professional status; and, while conserving and guarding his interests, it will protect the public against imperfectly educated, self-styled chemists now carrying on business in contravention of the 40c. Victoria, No. 9, and who should be compelled to undergo an examination or close their establishments. The Amended Pharmacy Act, although printed, is still in abeyance. Your council is very desirous of having a well-furnished museum and laboratory, in the creation of which a commencement has been made, and special subscriptions are earnestly solicited in aid of this important adjunct. Your council acknowledge with thanks gifts of several kinds, especially those from Messrs. Elliott Brothers and Messrs. E. Prosser and Co., also the receipt of books and pamphlets from friends in the colony, as well as from the American Pharmaceutical Association, which has kindly sent a copy of its annual proceedings; the British Pharmaceutical Conference, which has presented its Year Book of Pharmacy, and from the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy*, for copies of their publication. The treasurer's balance-sheet will be laid before you. The following members' seats are vacant, viz.:—Messrs. W. Larmer, W. Pratt, J. Mayne, and A. Carter; and the following have given notice as desirous of filling the vacancies:—Messrs. W.

Larmer, J. Mayne, A. Carter, J. S. Abraham, G. Selfe, H. Sadler, T. B. Melhuish, A. W. Avery, A. G. Kebblewhite, H. S. Brothwood, and A. H. Reed."

The balance-sheet was then read by Mr. Bozon, the honorary treasurer, and showed that the income for the year—including the balance of £155 14s. 8d. from the previous year, £231 18s. 6d. from diploma fees, and £100 profit on the sale of certain building society's shares—amounted to £199 13s. 2d.; whilst the balance at the Bank of New Zealand and in the secretary's hands was £209 3s. 7d., showing that the expenditure had been £290 9s. 7d.

Mr. Melhuish moved the adoption of the report and balance-sheet. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

A very long discussion ensued as to whether the ballot for the election of four members of council should remain open during the following day, several speakers urging that it would be an injustice to absent members to close the poll that evening.

The motion for the ballot to remain open until 1 p.m. on the 11th instant was finally carried.

The president delivered his annual address, in which, after congratulating the society on having reached its tenth anniversary of a career of usefulness, he said that one of the principal objects the society had in view was the education of students and others in the various departments of pharmacy. It was through no fault of their society that the intercolonial conference should have fallen through, and the question of attending the next conference in Victoria would be a matter for their consideration. In conclusion, he hoped that prosperity would always attend their labours. (Applause.)

Mr. Watt read a paper expressing regret at the resignation of Mr. Pratt, and dealing with several subjects, including the question of examination papers.

The proceedings closed with the usual votes of thanks.

The adjourned annual meeting was resumed on the 11th at the board-room, Phillip-street, when the election of members of council and office-bearers was completed. The chair was occupied by the president (Mr. Larmer). Mr. B. F. Bozon was re-elected as treasurer, and Messrs. J. A. Rose and F. Thornton were elected as auditors of the society. A ballot took place for the election of four members of council, and resulted in the election of Messrs. James Mayne, T. B. Melhuish, H. Sadler, and William Larmer.

Mr. W. J. Hobbs, of Summer Hill (late of Newcastle), has purchased Mr. C. P. Lewis' business at Orange, and engaged Mr. Melton, who has recently arrived from Timaru, N.Z., as assistant.

Mr. S. B. Player, of Riverton, S.A., has come to Sydney as assistant to Mr. F. Jones, of Summer Hill.

Mr. Butler, of Messrs. A. J. Watt, Son and Co., has returned from England, per the steamer *Orient*, after a visit of some months.

Mr. C. A. Kerans, late assistant to Mr. H. C. Armstrong, of George-street, has opened a new pharmacy at "The Strand," Cowper-street, Waverley.

Mr. A. J. Arnold has gone into business in a small way at Cook's River.

Mr. Roc, of Messrs. Stearns and Co., is at present travelling in Queensland.

W. S. Johnson, chemist, of Wallsend, who was reported as having taken a dose of poison on the night of the 9th May, died on the following day. He had lately been complaining of sleeplessness and depression of spirits, and a bottle was found by his side which had contained morphia. He partly regained consciousness on the morning of the 10th, and hopes were entertained for his

recovery by Drs. Nash, Massey, and Baker, who were unremitting in their attendance, but a sudden relapse took place. Mr. Johnson was 31 years of age, a native of Scotland, and unmarried.

Dr. M'Kellar reports that during the year 1884 the number of persons vaccinated in the whole of the colony of New South Wales was 7016, viz., 627 in the metropolitan district, and 6389 in country districts.

Both diphtheria and typhoid fever are very prevalent here at present.

At the inaugural meeting of the Medical Society of New South Wales, held on Friday, 14th May, in the theatre of the Prince Alfred Hospital, an interesting address was delivered to the medical students by Dr. Skirving on "Medical Societies, Medical Students, and their Teachers."

"Our Boys" continue to distinguish themselves in the old country. Recent advices inform us that Mr. W. H. H. Bennett, son of Mr. C. C. Bennett, sen., of Bowral, has passed his medical examination at the Edinburgh University; and that Mr. H. Murray, a native of Sydney, and son of the late Sir Terence Aubrey Murray, has obtained the Chancellor's and the Gainsford prizes for Latin and Greek verses at Oxford.

At Goulburn, recently, the wife and three children of a publican showed signs of poisoning, caused, it was supposed, by eating brawn. Lodgers were also attacked in a similar manner. Dr. Morton, who was called in, was successful in his treatment of the patients, all of whom have now recovered.

South Australia.

THE Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia held its monthly meeting at the society's room, King William-street, on Tuesday, 1st June. Present—Mr. Harrison (president) in the chair, and Messrs. Hollis, Woodman, Evans, G. A. Parkes, Dixon, Main, O'Connor, Hill, and White.

The minutes of previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the president said that specimens of various drugs had been sent by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia through the hon. secretary, Mr. H. Shillinglaw, as an addition to the *materia medica* collection of the South Australian Society, and remarked on the kindness which had prompted the gift. It was then proposed by Mr. O'Connor that the thanks of this society be tendered to the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia for the very acceptable present of specimens which had been received. Seconded by Mr. White, who said that the generosity of the gift, and the prompt manner in which it had been shown, deserved our best thanks. Supported by Mr. G. A. Parkes with many similar remarks, and carried unanimously.

The circular letter received from the Victorian Society in reference to the Conference was then considered, and it was decided that Mr. Harrison should write to the hon. secretary, Mr. Shillinglaw, with regard to the matter of delegates.

Mr. Hill's motion—that a committee of three be appointed to consider the advisability of obtaining a Pharmacy Act for South Australia—was next placed before the meeting.

Mr. Hill said that he was not so desirous of the appointment of a committee as of promoting thorough discussion in bringing forward his motion; but it was pointed out that the matter had been fairly discussed, and that if left at this point not much further progress was likely to result, while, if a committee were appointed to inquire, by letter and otherwise, into the construction, and especially the practical result, of the Pharmacy Acts of other countries, much reliable information would probably be gained.

Mr. Hill then decided to move as above, and Mr. White seconded. This was carried, and the following members were nominated to form the committee, namely:—Messrs. Sowter, Hill, Long, and Porter. It was further decided that the committee report to the society three months after their appointment.

It was moved by Mr. Hill that the next monthly meeting be advertised once in order to give notice of its occurrence. Seconded and carried.

This terminated the proceedings.

There has been considerable talk in pharmaceutical circles here about the probability of a Medical Act being passed this session. The qualified members of the medical profession have been taking active steps to procure one, and there is no doubt but that they will use all their influence to obtain the sanction of the Legislature, and, considering the reported large number of unqualified men who have assumed titles they have no right to, the protection of those who have earned their qualifications by hard work, and of the public, from such dishonest assumption is certainly a most desirable thing. From some remarks made to certain pharmacists here, it seemed at first likely that the privileges of chemists would be seriously curtailed if the Act became law. It was said that a heavy penalty was to be attached to all cases of prescribing, and the members of the Pharmaceutical Society were preparing to make a most determined resistance to any clause which would interfere with the time-honoured custom of supplying medicine for ailments of an unimportant character, which usage, far from having been injurious to the public, has undoubtedly been of great service. But it has since transpired that the proposed Medical Act does not restrict chemists' rights, and as long as it is confined to properly protecting the qualified and the public against the so-called "doctor," who has no honest claim to that title, it will, no doubt, meet with the hearty approval of all pharmacists.

The chemists, together with other business people, are feeling the depression of trade, which has not yet passed from this colony, and there are two or three businesses in the market, but not, it appears, of any note; and we are looking forward to the speedy return of more prosperous times, though, whether our hope will be justified as quickly as we desire it is difficult to say.

At the last monthly meeting of the Royal Society, Mr. F. S. Crawford exhibited some olives from the plantation at the gaol attacked by a coecus named *Aspidiotus nerii*. He explained that this coecus was not new to Adelaide, having been previously found on the oleander, English ivy, and jasmine, but this was the first time that it had been known to attack the olive. Mr. Crawford called attention to a mistake made by Mr. Van der Byl in his evidence before the Victorian commission on vegetable products. On that occasion this gentleman said that the coecus, which had entirely stopped the growth of oranges within 150 miles of Cape Town, and was called there the "Australian bug," was common on acacia hedges about Adelaide. This was wrong, as the coecus in question did not attack the orange, and was of quite a different species to the so-called "Australian bug," which, although it could be found in some gardens about Adelaide, was not a native of this part of Australia.

An inquest on the body of Daniel M'Allum, J.P., who died under somewhat strange circumstances on Saturday, 22nd May, was held on the following Monday at Terlinga station. Dr. Aug. Engelhart, of Mount Pleasant, stated that on the Saturday he received a note from Mrs. M'Allum stating that her husband had taken an overdose of laudanum. On arrival found life quite extinet. The lower jaw was dropping, the pupils of the eyes fixed, and the lower extremities getting cold. Made inquiries, when Mrs. M'Allum handed

him the bottle containing laudanum, saying she supposed he had taken the rest. Should have been with deceased not later than 12 o'clock on Friday night to save his life. Deceased had been under his treatment before, and had had sleeping draughts, but not lately. Was of opinion that death was caused by an excessive dose of laudanum. The jury found "that the deceased died from the effects of an overdose of laudanum, administered by himself accidentally, to alleviate suffering and induce sleep."

At Moonta, on 18th May, Mr. H. W. W. Guest, chemist, was charged before Messrs. Wilkinson and Jones, at the Police Court, with indecent assault on a child aged 15 years, named Maud Polkinghorne. After a sitting of five hours and a half the bench thought that, the evidence being of a most conflicting character, there was no probability of a conviction, and, after a short consultation, the case was dismissed.

New Zealand.

THE syllabus of the Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference, to be held in Melbourne during October next, reached here on 17th May, and promises much in the interests of pharmacy. The resolutions to be brought before the delegates all touch upon vital points. Here there is absolutely no means whereby the pharmaceutical tyro can obtain any adequate knowledge of technical chemistry. The New Zealand Pharmacy Board hold examinations every six months, and some half a dozen candidates present themselves. Of this number perhaps a third get their certificates. This is not as it should be. However, the reason is not far to seek. When no definite course of study is prescribed, the student has to obtain his knowledge from private teaching, or, if far removed from a large centre, private study. In both cases he does himself an injustice. In the case of his obtaining the assistance of a teacher, the fee charged will be such that, unless he is a Crœsus among apprentices, his means will not stand for any length of time the drain upon his purse. In the second case, where he reads by himself, if he does what in his eyes is honest work, he will burden his memory with much parrot knowledge, which will enable him to pass well, but fail entirely in making him a chemist. The result is, in the first case, that the examiners have but one course left open to them—viz., to refer the student to his studies for a longer or shorter period, as the exigencies of the case may seem to require; and in the second case the qualified man himself will suffer, as it will take much time and labour after obtaining his certificate to utilise his course of restricted reading. As to a preliminary examination. Here it is a matter of fact that young men present themselves for examination whose knowledge of Latin and English is so rudimentary that, however good the papers might be as far as technical knowledge went, the form in which they are done is so abominably bad that the Board have no option left in the matter. It therefore becomes very evident that, writing in the interests of New Zealand youth, a Preliminary Examination is a thing to be desired. In the matter of apprenticeship, this would appear to be unnecessary. It undoubtedly binds many to a calling for which they have absolutely no aptitude, and makes the life of master and apprentice, in many cases, almost unendurable. The only plea for apprenticeship that can be urged with any show of reason is that the youth is "learning the business," but this is scarcely valid. In the old days embryo surgeons were apprenticed, but the profession have, for the most part, recognised what a farce the whole thing was. No doubt it was appropriate enough in the days of the barber surgeons, when there was a certain amount of technical skill required, which could only be

obtained by learning one part of the profession by actual demonstration and experiment. Now that that part of the calling forms a distinct trade, the necessity for apprenticeship has ceased to exist. It is, perhaps, Utopian ever to hope that a time will come when the student shall have to devote at least two years to learning his *profession*, when it will be compulsory for him to enter himself at a pharmaceutical college, and devote his *whole* time to qualifying himself for the business of his life. Moreover, it is possible that this view may be objected to by the purely "business men," who will ask—Where is the student to obtain the tact required in "waiting upon a customer?" If there is any weight in such a question—establish a lectureship in every college of pharmacy of pharmaceutical ethics. There would be a very large number of gentlemen willing and happy to teach the student how "Our Fijian Figment" or "Invaluable Indian Inhaler" should be sold. In fact, they would be masters of pharmaceutical "deportment."

But the whole of the three resolutions are so very much to the point that anything like an exhaustive discussion of them in a letter is out of the question, added to which the knowledge that each and every matter will be thoroughly threshed out at the Conference renders all that may be written premature, and perhaps abortive.

In Auckland some changes are taking place in the retail trade that go far to show that pharmacy is considered to afford a good opening for the investment of capital. Mr. Edson's pharmacy, "The Medical Hall," is now completed, and has a fine appearance. The fittings are massive and appropriate, the floor paved with minton tiles of a good design, and the window not, as too often the case, an *ominum gatherum* of "valuable preparations." Mr. Cater, for a long time the proprietor of a drug store in Hobson-street, has sold out to Mr. Robinson, lately of Manchester, and left for Europe to qualify for the medical profession. Mr. Robinson is having his new pharmacy enlarged by carrying the shop back. Mr. Powell, of Mount Eden, a suburb, is removing to new premises in the same street. The shop is one of a block of concrete houses, and is double-fronted.

The New Zealand Smelting Company, which was formed to buy the La Mont Gold Smelting Furnace, has been wound up. This is most unfortunate for the colony, for the depression existing here is becoming acute, and if any process could be devised to extract the gold and silver which certainly exists in the North Island, much suffering and want would be averted.

A meeting of the New Zealand Pharmacy Board was held at the Registrar's (Mr. Garland's) office, Auckland, on Friday, 21st May, when the reports from the various examiners appointed for the fifth standard examination throughout the colony were aggregated. It was found that Mr. R. M. Henston and Mr. R. D. Henlon (Dunedin), and Mr. F. W. Hall (New Plymouth) had passed the prescribed examination. The papers of the two first were of special excellence, and received the commendations of the Board as being creditable to the profession of pharmacy.

From particulars to hand respecting the sudden death (found dead in bed) of Mr. Sloane, chemist, at Whangarei, it would appear that he has fallen a victim to an overdose of chloral. The local constable's report runs as follows:—"It would appear that the deceased had a case coming on for hearing with reference to the alleged maltreatment of a racehorse called Larry, belonging to Mr. T. Johnson, and which, it is alleged, died from the effects of a dose of medicine administered by the deceased, and for which he was sued by Johnson for £100 damages. He was much excited over the matter, and being unable to obtain sleep previously unless by taking chloral, it is probable that in his excited state a much larger quantity would be necessary to produce the desired effect, and that

he unfortunately overshot the mark by taking an overdose, which resulted in his death. Mr. Sloane was formerly in business in Te Awamutu. He leaves a widow and two daughters, who are said to be ill-provided for."

The formal opening of the session of the University of Otago took place on 3rd May, when Dr. Ogston, the recently appointed Lecturer on Public Health and Medical Jurisprudence, delivered the inaugural address. The students behaved in so disorderly a manner that little or nothing could be heard by the audience; but from the report of the address, published in the Press, it is evident that the University is to be congratulated on securing Dr. Ogston's services.

A strong decoction of New Zealand flax has been used with success by Surgeon Monckton, of Kumara Hospital, as a dressing in hundreds of cases of lacerations and amputations. In his opinion, there is nothing equal to it in promoting healthy granulation.

W. L. Maxwell, who was some time ago arrested in Auckland on a charge of having murdered his companion, C. A. Preller, in the Southern Hotel, St. Louis, and was subsequently returned to the United States, has confessed that he caused the death of Preller by administering chloroform to him, but stated that the occurrence was accidental.

Queensland.

THE first examination under the Pharmacy Act of Queensland of persons desirous of being admitted as duly qualified chemists was commenced in the lecture-room of the School of Arts, Brisbane, on the 2nd inst. The members of the Board who attended were Dr. J. C. Ellison, examiner in the subjects of chemistry and botany; Mr. A. W. Field, examiner in the subjects of Materia Medica and pharmacy; and Mr. C. H. Yeo, Mr. F. Taylor, the registrar, being also present. Twenty-five applications were received from candidates, while twenty submitted themselves for examination. The examination of candidates occupied the whole of the 2nd and 3rd inst. The following information is supplied by one of the successful candidates. The examination papers used will appear in our next issue:—

PRACTICAL PHARMACY (ORAL).—EXAMINER, MR. FIELD.

Shown extracts, ointments, tinctures, plasters, etc., asked their names, and, if correct, further questioned as to ingredients, how prepared, dose, properties, and use. Recognised Ung. Hydrarg. Fort. Tr. Opii Amm., Ung. Galloe, Extract Hyoscyam. and Pulu. Scammon. Co.

CHEMISTRY (ORAL).—EXAMINER, DR. J. CLEMENT ELLISON.

Shown Biniodide of Mercury; recognised it; asked how made. What is the empiric value? Are there any more Iodides of Mercury? How many? Describe the manufacture of Green Iodide. Shown Chloride of Lime; recognised it. Describe its manufacture. Describe the manufacture of Chlorine. What weight is Chlorine? Are there any other gases similar? Name them. Why alike? Why called halogens? How distinguished? Any other resemblance? Weights of each? Shown and recognised Reduced Iron. How prepared? Of what quantivalence is Iron? What are they? When binary? When sexinary? Shown and recognised Yellow Oxide of Mercury. Give formula. Any other Oxides? How is the yellow prepared? How is the red prepared? Shown and recognised a bad sample of Carbolic Acid. Any other name? Name them. Was shown and recognised Bromine in solution, Iodine, Arsenic, Bromide of Potassium, Bromide of Ammonium, etc. Asked for formula of Water. What quantivalence is H? What quantivalence is O? Why bivalent?

MATERIA MEDICA (ORAL).—EXAMINER, MR. FIELD.

About one hundred samples of roots, herbs, powders, resins, gums, etc., were laid out on a table. Examiners selected one and asked what it was. When recognised, then further questions were put as to whether a good sample, uses, preparation, and, if flower, root, or herb, asked the order of the plant to which it belonged. Recognised Aconite, Ipecacuanha, Jalape, Arnica, and Mezerium Roots, Podophyllum, Opium, Stramonium, etc.

PRACTICAL DISPENSING.—EXAMINER, MR. C. F. YEO.

A prescription was ordered to be dispensed. Mixture, and dozen pills, the latter containing $\frac{1}{16}$ grain Perchloride of Mercury in each pill. To finish and write directions in a proper manner. Then autograph prescription-reading was gone through, and criticisms. The prescriptions given were badly written. One contained 5*i* Aqua Lauro Cerasi to a dose. Two other prescriptions contained incompatibilities.

BOTANY (ORAL).—EXAMINER, DR. J. CLEMENT ELLISON.

A quantity of branches, leaves, flowers, roots, bulbs, etc., were laid out on the table. Here is a flower, is it a perfect one? Describe all the organs of this flower and its functions. Here is a branch; what order of plants does it belong to? Here is another; what order? Here is a flower; what order? and so on through eight orders. Asked the name of a bulb (showing it). Asked the name of a tuber (showing it). What is the difference between them? What does a tuber contain? Why does it contain starch, etc.? What is a petaloid and a sessile leaf? Inquired the forms of various leaves, and a few other questions on elementary botany. [Note.—None of the plants, etc., exhibited had anything whatever to do with *Materia Medica*.]

[We since learn by telegram that three out of the twenty candidates have passed.]

At the Brisbane Police Court, on 20th ult., Dr. J. Clement Ellison was charged, on summons, with the manslaughter of a child named Ernst Homann. Evidence was given that the doctor had attended the deceased for the purpose of performing an operation for stone in the bladder. As the child was being put under the influence of chloroform, the mother of the child called out to Dr. Ellison that his horse, which had been left in front of the scene of the occurrence in charge of a boy, was shying, and expressing a fear that some of the children would be hurt. Dr. Ellison then left the deceased, dropping, so it was stated, the towel used in the administration of the chloroform upon the child's face. On the return of the accused to the invalid's room it was found that the deceased was dead, the cause of death being stated as failure of the heart, due to chloroform. Every means was taken to restore animation, but without effect. The accused was committed for trial, but has since been discharged, the Attorney-General not having found a true bill. Dr. Ellison has written to the Queensland press explaining that, the street being very narrow, and the buggy light, he knew that the vehicle was liable to be overturned in a moment; "and," he continues, "as my own little son was in the buggy, and a lot of little children were close around, I knew that, if such a thing did take place, a very serious accident, with, perhaps, loss of life, would result. Supposing some such accident was taking place," explains the doctor, "I threw down the towel, intending to suspend the inhalation until after the accident had been seen to." *The Daily Observer* (Q.) severely comments upon the action of the Attorney-General in first instituting the proceedings against Dr. Ellison, and then abandoning further prosecution. Says our contemporary:—"Either Dr. Ellison

ought not to have had a prosecution ordered against him, or, that prosecution having been decided upon, he was entitled, if innocent, to be fully acquitted by a jury of his countrymen. As the case now stands, he has been first accused, and then acquitted, not by the verdict of a jury chosen from the people, but by the Attorney-General."

Tasmania.

MR. ALEXANDER WEBSTER, son of Mr. Alexander Webster, sen., of Launceston, has passed a successful examination as a chemist before the Medical Board, Hobart. Mr. Webster, who was educated at the Church Grammar School, is now serving his indentures with Messrs. L. Fairthorne and Son, chemists, of St. John-street.

Few persons who visited the Launceston General Hospital two years ago would recognise it in the hospital of to-day, so great have been the improvements which have recently been effected. The new drainage is on the most modern and improved principle, the yards have been raised, graded, and the surface drained, and the interior arrangements have been vastly improved. In 1884 a sum of £2000 was voted by the Legislature for hospital improvements, and in 1885 a further sum of £5000. It is estimated that the whole of these two votes will be absorbed by the improvements which have already been carried out and those at present in progress, and when these are completed Launceston will possess an institution of which it will have every reason to feel proud—that is to say if it does not fall a victim to the fiery element, which it was in some little danger of doing the other day as the result of a foul chimney. Fortunately Mr. Superintendent Croft and his men of the Launceston Fire Brigade were on the spot in time, and subdued the flames ere the building could suffer any damage. The returns for the month of May, as compared with the corresponding month last year, show the strength of the Hospital on 1st May, 1886, was 54 males, 19 females; May, 1885, 46 males, 25 females. Admitted during May, 1886, 61 males, 17 females; May, 1885, 40 males, 17 females. Total for 1886, 115 males, 36 females; for 1885, 86 males, 42 females. Discharged during May, 1886, 60 males, 16 females; May, 1885, 32 males, 13 females. Died during May, 1886, 5 males, 2 females; during May, 1885, 2 males, 3 females. Remaining on 1st June, 49 males, 19 females, as against 52 males, 26 females on 1st June, 1885. The total number of new outpatients during May, 1886, was 54, as compared with 32 for the same month last year.

The chemists of Launceston have unanimously agreed to close their respective establishments from 1.30 to 6 p.m. on Sundays, opening from 6 to 9. In this move they have the entire sympathy of the public, who will in no way be inconvenienced, as in cases of urgency a chemist can always be found to dispense the necessary medicines. The only thing to be wondered at is that they should not have taken this step long ago.

Joseph Turner, a hawker, was convicted and sentenced to death at the Supreme Court, Hobart, on Wednesday, 19th May, on a charge of attempting to poison his wife at New Norfolk. The evidence showed that he had abstracted some pills prescribed for her by her medical attendant, and substituted pills containing strychnine, from the effects of which, however, she recovered.

At an Executive meeting, held on 31st May, the sentence of death against Joseph Turner, for attempted poisoning, was commuted to imprisonment for life.

New Remedies and Formulae.

MAURY'S OINTMENT.—Under this name an unctuous solid was first formulated and introduced into the Philadelphia Hospital, some eight years ago, by Dr. Maury, then a visiting physician of that institution, for the external healing treatment of sores, ulcers, &c., in general, and as especially serviceable in external affections of the skin dependent upon venereal origin. Since that time, in the medical practice of the hospital referred to, it has been constantly employed by the resident physicians with a more than ordinary uniform success. In the February number of the *American Journal of Pharmacy*, Joseph W. England, Ph.G., gives the following formula for its preparation:—R. Nitrate of mercury ointment, 5*i.*; powdered rhubarb; powdered opium, aa 5*ss.*; cosmoline, q.s. ad 5*i.* Triturate the rhubarb and opium together with the cosmoline until a perfectly smooth, homogeneous product is obtained. Then admix with it the citrine ointment, after having previously rubbed the same with about one fluid drachm of glycerine to remove any granulation present, using in the latter action a bone spatula to work with. The part to which the ointment is to be applied must first be poulticed with a hot "Labarraque poultice," that is, a poultice of flaxseed meal, made with hot "Labarraque's solution" (liquor sodæ chloratæ, U.S.P.) instead of the hot water ordinarily used. After remaining on for a while, the poultice is removed, and frequently takes with it portions of dead tissue. The skin is then carefully dried, the ointment spread upon soft lint, and applied twice a day, or varying according to the severity of the case until the sore, &c., is healed.

CUCAINE IN THE EAR FOR NEURALGIA.—Dr. de Coninck, of Ladeberg-lez-Gand, writes to the *Scalpel* that an application of a one per cent. solution of hydrochlorate of cuaine by a camel's hair brush, or a dropper, to the bottom of the external auditory canal arrests the pain of neuralgia of the facial nerve, and, indeed, any pain in the temporal region, instantaneously. He has not found this treatment of the same value in neuralgia of the fifth nerve, but suggests that perhaps some other point of application may exist for this nerve.

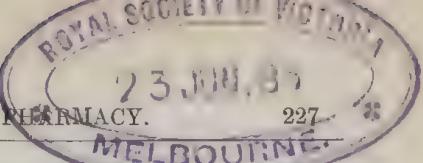
CHLOROFORM LINIMENT.—Chloroform liniment, says Prof. J. Rutherford Hill, may be prepared in a few minutes by dissolving 1 ounce flowers of camphor in 5 fl. ounces of chloroform and mixing with 4 fl. ounces of olive oil.

CLEANING POWDERS FOR WINDOWS.—A good cleaning powder for show-windows, which leaves no dirt in the joints, is prepared by moistening calcined magnesia with pure benzin, so that a mass is formed sufficiently moist to let a drop form when pressed. The mixture has to be preserved in glass bottles with ground stoppers, in order to retain the easily volatile benzin. A little of the mixture is placed on a wad of cotton and applied to the glass plate. It may also be used for cleaning mirrors.—*Druggists' Circular.*

HAIR RESTORATIVE.—S. J. Smith, M.D., recommends the following as a hair restorative, to be used daily in the place of oil for a dressing in loss of hair:—R. Bay rum; glycerine, aa 5*j.*; tincture cantharides; tincture capsicum, aa 5*j.*; quinine sulphate, grs. x.; water, 5*iv.* M.—*Drug. Cir.*

SUPPOSITORIES FOR HÆMORRHIODS.—Martin, in the *Rev. de Therap.*, recommends the following formula for use in cases of hæmorrhoids:—Antipyrine, 38 grains; cacao butter, 150 grains. Make five suppositories and use two or three in the course of twenty-four hours.

ALLAYING IRRITATION.—Irritation of the skin, from any cause, may, according to Prof. Bartholow, be allayed by sponging the patient with a preparation consisting of carbolic acid, 2 drachms; glycerine, 1 ounce; and enough rose water to make 8 ounces.



COCAINE TEETHING SYRUP.—For application to childrens gums during dentition, the *Deut. Med. Zeit.* recommends a syrup prepared by dissolving 1 part cocaine hydrochloride in 100 parts of simple syrup, and coloured, if desired, with a few drops tincture of saffron.

POTASSIUM IODIDE IN MILK.—In the *Wiener Med. Bl.* Dr. Keyes reports milk the best solvent for potassium iodide. Ten grains in five ounces of cold milk form, he says, a pleasant beverage with but a slight metallic taste.

GLYCERITE OF TAR.—The glycerite made by the following formula, being miscible with water in all proportions, and yielding a clear liquid, commends itself to the favourable consideration of pharmacists:—Take of oil of tar 1 fluid ounce; alcohol, 2 fluid ounces; glycerine, 4 fluid ounces; water, 4 fluid ounces; carbonate of magnesium, 6 drams. Mix the oil of tar with the alcohol, and rub these thoroughly with the magnesia to a smooth paste; to this add the glycerine and water previously mixed together; put the mixture into a well-corked bottle, and let it remain for several days, shaking it frequently; then filter through paper.—*Nat. Druggist.*

LOCAL APPLICATION FOR NEURALGIA.—Dr. Mayet, in the *Jour. de Med. de Paris*, recommends the following mixture as a neat and compact local application in neuralgic affections:—Mix into a paste 5 parts each of chloral hydrate and crystallised menthol with 10 parts of cacao butter and 20 parts of spermaceti. Divide into squares weighing about 30 grains. The affected part is to be gently rubbed with one of the squares, which is then allowed to melt on the most painful spot. This would seem an excellent preparation for druggists to keep on hand put up in a neat form.

THE PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA QUARTERLY EXAMINATIONS.

THE following were the papers:—

THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.—1ST JUNE, 1886.

Time allowed, three hours.

LATIN.—Translation and Grammar; Caesar, *de Bello Gallico*, Book I.

(1) Translate closely and literally—(a) Quum tridui viam processisset, nuntiatum est ei Arioivistum cum suis omnibus copiis ad occupandam Vesontionem, quod est oppidum maximum Sequanorum, contendere, triduque viam a suis finibus profecisse. Id ne accideret magno opere sibi praecavendum Caesar existinabat. (b) Helvetii, seu quod timore perterritos Romanos discedere a se existimarent, eo magis quod pridie superioribus locis occupatis proelium non commisissent, sive eo quod re frumentaria intercludi posse considerent, commutato consilio atque itinere converso nostros a novissimo agmine insequi ac lacescere cooperunt.

(2) Parse the italicised words in the above.

(3) Answer the following questions on the above passages:—(a) Who was Arioivistus? About what date did he live? (b) Where is Vesontio? What is its modern name? (c) How are the words “magno opere” sometimes written? (d) Point out an instance of the ablative absolute construction. Explain exactly what this construction is, and why it is so common in Latin. (e) What kind of verb is cooperunt? Mention another of same kind.

(4) Decline substantive *vulnus*, pronoun *ille*, adjective *dives*.

(5) Give principal parts and meanings of the verbs—*fleo*, *peto*, *posco*, *occulto*.

(6) Write out in full—Past imperfect subj. act. of *arcessō*. Future indic. pass. of *committō*. Perf. participle passive of *tollo*.

(7) Translate into Latin—(a) Caesar asked how great the enemies' forces were. (b) The load which is properly carried becomes light. (c) Use time wisely.

ENGLISH.—Grammar and Composition.

(1) Give the full analysis of the sentence—“These had their sweet bells that pierced the forests for many a league at matins or vespers.”

(2) Explain this sentence from De Quincy—“If I lived even with Friday in Juan Fernandez, either Friday must do all the darning, or else it must go undone.”

- (3) Parse every word in the line—"Nor you, ye Proud, impute to these the fault."
 (4) Write a short piece of composition, carefully spelled and punctuated, on "The evil of Gambling," or "The beneficial effect of bodily exercise." [N.B.—Good careful composition tells greatly in the candidate's favour.]

ARITHMETIC.—First four rules, simple and compound; vulgar and decimal fractions, and simple and compound proportion. British and Metrical systems of Weights and Measures.

(1) A gentleman's income in 1885 was £685, out of which he saved £274 7s. 6d. Find his average daily expenditure.

- (2) Reduce to lowest terms

$$\frac{\frac{8}{15} + \frac{7}{18}}{\frac{17}{105}} = \frac{\frac{17}{105} + \frac{1}{3}}{\frac{17}{18}}$$

- (3) Find the value of $\frac{3}{4}$ of £1 6s. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. + $\frac{11}{338}$ of 1 guinea + $\frac{5}{64}$ of £1.
 (4) If a man walk 11 yards in 5 seconds, how many miles can he walk in an hour?
 (5) Taking the gramme as equal to 15.543 grains troy, find how many lbs. avoirdupois there are in 5 kilogrammes. [N.B.—7000 grains troy = 1 lb. avoirdupois.]

**EXAMINATION FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY,
MELBOURNE.—2ND JUNE, 1886.**

QUESTIONS IN MATERIA MEDICA.—EXAMINER, MR. HENRY FRANCIS.

Time allowed, two hours.

- (1) Hordeum Distichon—(a) What do the seeds consist of? (b) When malted, state the change that has taken place. (c) Describe the processes of making extract of malt and (d) Hordeum decorticatum.
 (2) (a) What is Salicin, and how made? (b) State its relations to Salicylic Acid.
 (3) From what source are Cantharides obtained? To what order do they belong?
 (4) Mention the principal Drugs derived from the Orders—Polygonaceæ, Rutaceæ, Iridaceæ.
 (5) How would you estimate the value of a sample of Scammony and Barbadoes Aloes?
 (6) What are the botanical and geographical sources of Scammony? What are the characters of pure Scammony? With what substances is it adulterated, and how may they be detected?

QUESTIONS IN BOTANY.—EXAMINER, MR. C. R. BLACKETT.

Time allowed, two hours.

- (1) What is the meaning of the term "Proximate Principles" of Plants? Give as full an illustration as you can.
 (2) Give a general outline of the natural and artificial systems of botanical classification, according to De Candolle and Linnaeus.
 (3) Define the following:—Pitted, spiral, and annular cells; and reticulated, scalariform, and laticiferous vessels.
 (4) Give the essential characters of the following natural orders:—Papaveraceæ, Cruciferæ, Ranunculaceæ, Compositæ, Labiatæ, and Scrophulariaceæ.
 (5) State generally the characteristic distinctions in structure between the stems of dicotyledonous, monocotyledonous, and acotyledonous plants.

QUESTIONS IN CHEMISTRY.—EXAMINER, MR. WILLIAM JOHNSON.

Time allowed, two hours.

- (1) How are the following acids obtained for commercial purposes?—Acetic, Benzoic, Boracic, Carbolic, Chromic, Citric, Fluoric, Gallic, Hydrochloric, Hydrocyanic, Lactic, Nitric, Oxalic, Phosphoric, Tannic, Tartaric.
 (2) How would you detect albumen and sugar in urine?
 (3) What is the essential chemical difference between a Jordan sweet almond (*amygdala dulcis*) and a bitter almond (*amygdala amara*)?
 (4) What is Alum?
 (5) What is the chief source of commercial Ammonia? Its composition? Name the officinal preparations it enters into.
 (6) What are the principal substances that form the food of plants, and which are necessary to their growth and due development?
 (7) Describe the active principles of Coffee, Tea, Guarana, and Cocoa.
 (8) Give a short description of Dalton's Atomic Theory and the doctrine of Chemical Equivalents, with examples.
 (9) How would you estimate the quantity of Alcohol in Tinctures, Liquors, Wines, or Beers, or other syrupy liquids?
 (10) Commercial Ether not unfrequently is mixed with Alcohol. How would you test the proportion present by a simple test?

(11) Water—its freezing point; boiling point; point of greatest density; composition and specific gravity; amount of heat required to convert ice at 32° into steam; and the temperature of such steam at ordinary atmospheric pressure, viz., 15lbs. to the square inch?

MAJOR EXAMINATION.—3RD JUNE, 1886.

QUESTIONS IN PRACTICAL PHARMACY.—EXAMINERS, MESSRS. FRANCIS AND OWEN.

Time allowed, one hour.

DIVISION I.—DISPENSING—PRACTICAL WORK.

- (1) Read five autograph prescriptions.
- (2) Dispense:—Emp. Belladon., 6 x 4.
- (3) Rx Ol. Ricini, ʒi fls; Ether Chlor. 3i; Syr. Zingib. 3iv; Aqua ad ʒvi. Ft. Emulsione. Misce S. A. Cap. ʒ fls ter in die.—For Mrs. Jones.

WRITTEN WORK.—EXAMINERS, MESSRS. FRANCIS AND OWEN.

Time allowed, two hours.

- (1) With what are the following incompatible?—(a) Acid. Tart. (b) Aq. Lauro Cerasi. (c) Potass. Iod. (d) Argent. Nit. (e) Potass. Permanganas.

(2) Give the doses of and antidotes to—Acid. Hydrocyan. Dil., Tinct. Cannabis Ind., Acid. Sulph. Dil., Acid. Carbolic, Antim. Pot. Tart.

(3) What quantities of the active drug will each dose of the following contain?—R Tr. Aconiti ʒiii; Tr. Cannabis Ind. ʒiv; Tr. Chlorof. Co. ʒiii; Liq. Strychn. ʒi; Mist. Camph. ad ʒx. Misce; Cap. ʒi ter in die.

(4) Write fully in Latin, using words instead of signs for the quantities, the following:—R. Ricin. ʒi; Muc. Acac. ʒi; Mag. Carb. ʒi; Tr. Opii ʒi; Aq. ʒvfls. Make an emulsion, of which take ʒfls after each liquid stool.

(5) Express fully, according to the metric notation—Grammes 4265·403. Reduce 1lb. 8oz. 43½grs. to its metric value. Express in grains the weight of—(a) A pint of Strong Sulphuric Acid; (b) 500 grain measures of S.V. Rect., B.P.; (c) A troy pound. Work and answer to second decimal place.

(6) Name the best pill excipients for—(a) Camphor. (b) Chloral Hydrate. (c) Ext. Filicis Liquid. (d) Ferri Sulph. (e) Argent. Oxid.

(7) How can the following be best reduced to powder?—(a) Cetaceum. (b) Camphor. (c) Boracic Acid. (d) Nux Vomica. (e) Saffron.

DIVISION III.—EXAMINERS, MESSRS. BLACKETT AND BRIND.

Time allowed, two hours.

- (1) Write equations to explain the oxidising power of Red Chromate of Potassium.

(2) What are the Pharmacopœia tests for the purity and strength of the following?—Chloroform, Rectified Spirit, Spiritus Etheris Nitrosi, Chloral, Calx Chlorinata, Calcii Chloridum, Liquor Magnesiae Carbonatis.

(3) How is Sulphurous Acid prepared? and what precautions are necessary to obtain a saturated solution of this acid?

(4) Give the reactions, illustrated by equations, which occur in the preparation of the following:—Acidum Hydrocyanicum, Acidum Sulphuricum, Acidum Tartaricum, Liquor Ferri Perchloridi, Ferri Sulphas.

(5) Describe accurately the crystalline forms of the following:—Arsenious “ Acid,” Acidum Citricum, Acidum Tartaricum, Strychnia, Sodii Sulphas.

ANOTHER NEW PHARMACY.

MR. ALFRED REEVE, of Ascot Vale, has just erected another handsome and commodious pharmacy at Essendon, on the Mount Alexander-road, in close proximity to the Essendon railway station. The building is on land having a good corner frontage, with a depth of 130ft., and, being so close to the station, is necessarily in a most commanding position. It has an extremely neat appearance from the outside, and on entering it is at once discernible that no expense has been spared to make everything as complete and convenient as possible. The dimensions of the main shop are 22ft. by 13ft., with an elevation to the ceiling of 12ft., and although the space is not so great, it is quite sufficient for present requirements, and is made to look considerably larger by the numerous handsome plate-glass mirrors and show cases which are to be seen on all sides, and give a bright and pretty effect to the other surroundings. The counter

and fittings are fine pieces of workmanship, and have bird's-eye maple panels relieved with mountings of kauri pine and cedar, all beautifully polished, and reflect the greatest credit on Mr. E. D. Cook, the maker, who has evidently gone to great pains to give satisfaction. The arrangements of the dispensing department are of the most complete description, and everything in connection with it has been well arranged. Both windows contain costly ornamental displays, which are very attractive. A very handy and convenient contrivance is an electric bell placed at the door, which, on being connected with a switch, rings on anyone stepping on the door-mat, and is also connected with the night-bell. The gold lettering on the windows is also quite a work of art. The reputation Mr. Reeve has so quickly acquired at Ascot Vale has induced him to open this branch pharmacy at Essendon, where a good chemist was badly required, and now that the residents have an establishment which would do credit in its arrangements to Collins-street, it is to be hoped they will give every encouragement to the enterprising and courteous proprietor, to whom we wish every success.

NEW PATENTS.

AN application for letters patent was heard and granted by the Attorney-General on Tuesday, the 18th May, as follows:—Mr. Alfredo Michael, of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for an improved apparatus for extracting the fatty acids and glycerine from tallow and other fatty matters in an economical manner with water only, and without the aid of sulphuric acid or other chemical agents. The apparatus consists of a monte-jus or cistern, to which the fatty matters and water are supplied, and from thence it is led to two boilers, or autoclaves, which are subjected to outside heat, and furnished with outer circulating pipes, fitted with cocks to test the condition of the fatty matter, which is led from the boilers to a close vessel in which the glycerine falls by gravity to the bottom, and from which it is drawn, while the fatty acids are led into a still, which is heated over a fire or furnace. The lower part of such still is supplied with superheated steam, which is delivered under the fatty acids, and this still communicates with a condenser, to which is attached a continuous-action pump to draw off the steam and vapours from the fatty acids, which are then discharged into any suitable vessel.

POISONING CASES.

IN Ballarat East, on the 13th May, a young woman, named Lizzie Thompson *alias* Daniels, attempted to poison herself with laudanum. A very weak preparation of the drug, however, had been used, and, on being treated at the hospital, she was soon pronounced out of danger.

WILLIAM WILLIAMS, a settler, for thirty-two years resident in Benalla, and who landed in New South Wales in 1840, recently committed suicide by taking forty grains of strychnine. He was sixty-six years of age. At the magisterial inquiry into the matter it was shown that deceased had been out of employment for a long time, and frequently threatened to destroy himself. He had also brooded over family troubles. The magistrate found that death was caused by poison self-administered. The deceased had a family of fifteen, four of whom survive him. He also supported eight children of his son-in-law, Glazebrook, who is an inmate of the Blind Asylum in Melbourne.

WILLIAM JOHN CULLEN, chief clerk in the railway goods shed, Albury, was found in a dying condition on Friday night, the 4th June, and subsequently expired. Death resulted from an overdose of morphia. At the coroner's inquest the jury found a verdict of accidental death.

THE REDWOOD TESTIMONIAL FUND.

THE following amounts have been received by Mr. Shillinglaw since the last issue of this journal:—

Amount already acknowledged	...	...	...	£20	14	0
Messrs. Chas. Pleasance, Melbourne	...	...	...	0	10	6
Alex. Fowler, Launceston	...	...	...	1	1	0
T. P. Palmer, Ballarat	...	...	...	0	10	6
Thos. Longstaff	...	...	...	0	10	6
J. W. Scott ...	...	...	...	0	10	6
A. Andrews, Beaufort	...	...	...	0	10	6
W. M. Rowley, Melbourne	...	...	...	0	10	6

A "GENUINE" QUACK.

UNDER this heading the *British and Colonial Druggist* publishes the following illustration of the methods adopted by the "quack" fraternity in the old country. Should any of our readers have had any experience of a similar character in the colonies we should be glad to receive particulars:—

To the Editor of the British and Colonial Druggist.

SIR,—Herewith I beg to enclose a specimen of genuine quackery. The credulous customer wished me to dispense the medicines, as he "thought it important to have them prepared according to the directions," and was much surprised on finding I declined his request.—Yours faithfully,

R. GOODWIN MUMBRAY.

Richmond Road, 5th April, 1886.

Mr. Mumbray sends us a small pamphlet of the gratuitous-advice-to-the-afflicted style, the writer of which, a certain F. Nichol, who dates from Dalston, London, E., is indebted for his wonderful cure to an Italian physician whom he met casually in Madrid. He claims, of course, to be actuated by philanthropic motives in his proceedings, furnishes free what are facetiously called "prescriptions," and if chemists are not able to dispense them, he will supply the valuable remedies at 10s. per lot. The usual audacious statements are made respecting habitual substitution by chemists, and the uselessness of submitting the prescriptions to them, the reasons for which are obvious. Here are the prescriptions which F. Nichol says have been in several cases dispensed by chemists, with the result that analysis revealed what they furnished to be "nearly useless, several of the chief ingredients being entirely omitted, and other thoroughly useless and worthless drugs substituted."

PRESCRIPTION.

For the radical cure of all forms of Nervous and Physical Debility, Weakness, Loss of Memory, Indigestion, Restless Sleep, disturbed by Unhappy Dreams, Palpitation of the Heart on the least excitement, Pimples on the Face and Shoulders, &c., &c.

Pareira Brava, half an ounce.

Hydrastis Can, one ounce.

Peruvian Bark Calisaya, one ounce.

Bromide Potassium, one ounce.

Carbonate Lithia, two drachms.

MODE OF PREPARING.

Put half an ounce of Pareira Brava to two ounces of boiling water, let it stand for two hours, then add of finely-powdered Hydrastis Can one ounce, mix well, and reduce to the consistency of Syrup by evaporation; put one ounce

Peruvian Bark Calisaya to two ounces of boiling water, let it boil five minutes, then filter and add one ounce Bromide of Potassium; wash two drachms of the Salts of Carbonate Lithia in proper vessels, and add all the ingredients together, heat on a slow fire, in a close covered vessel, to 100 degrees specific gravity, remove it to a mortar, pulverise well and triturate. Divide the whole mixture into 25 powders.

Dose—1 Powder on going to bed until cured.

PREScription No. 2.

Extract Buchu, 3 drachms.

„ Nux Vomica, half a drachm.

„ Damina, three drachms.

Pulv. Cascara Amarga, two drachms.

Extract Diospyros Kaki, one drachm.

The above ingredients to be thoroughly incorporated and made into Pill Mass with the usual incipients, and rolled into four-grain Pills and sugar-coated.

Dose—Two Pills, three times daily, one hour after meals.

N.B. —These Pills must in all cases be sugar-coated as soon as possible after they are made, as some of these ingredients quickly deteriorate if exposed to the atmosphere.

Notes and Abstracts.

THE report that spurious and injurious "cubebs" had been met with in this country has naturally provoked a careful supervision of parcels coming into the United States market, but, according to Dr. Squibb (*Ephemeris*, December, p. 866), hitherto without the detection of any Lauraceous substitutes. One parcel that had been pronounced by other experts to be spurious was undoubtedly derived, in Dr. Squibb's opinion, from a Piperaceous plant, though possibly from *P. crassipes*. The berries were slightly smaller and lighter in colour than those of a sample of high quality of genuine cubebs, but larger and darker than those of poor samples. The taste was the same, but the odour, which was also at first thought to be identical, appeared when more carefully tried, in the case of the spurious berries, to have a faint, but distinct trace of nutmeg or mace superadded to the strong cubeb odour. The yield of oil on distillation was small, and the mace-like odour was more pronounced in it than in the berry. But in external appearance the berries were substantially alike, and when cut and examined with a pocket glass they showed no greater difference from undoubtedly genuine berries than is observed between different berries of the same samples. Dr. Squibb inclines to the opinion that the sample was the product of the true *Piper Cubeba*, grown under unusual conditions of locality, climate, soil, etc., which are known to exercise a modifying influence in other ways. He suggests that under the stimulus of high prices, the collection of cubebs has been pushed into fresh districts, with the result of bringing into the market the products of different varieties and sub-varieties of the true *Piper Cubeba*, the therapeutic properties of which have yet to be proved.—*Pharmaceutical Journal*.

DR. OGLE has been instituting an inquiry into the relative mortality attached to specific callings. In proportion to 1000 the average mortality during the period of 1880-2 is stated as follows:—Clergymen, 555; gardener and nurseryman, 599; farmer and grazier, 631; labourer in agricultural counties, 701. The figures for the other occupations, or groups of occupations, increase rapidly, and at the bottom of the list appear the following:—Plumber, painter, and glazier, 1202;

cutler and scissors-maker, 1309; musician and music-master, 1314; hairdresser, 1327; cab and omnibus service, 1482; chimney-sweep, 1519; innkeeper and publican, and wine and spirit dealer, 1521; messenger, porter, and watchman, 1565; file-maker, 1667; earthenware manufacturer, 1742; Cornish miners, 1839; costermonger, hawker, and street-seller, 1879; general labourer in London, 2020; and inn and hotel servants, 2205. Says the *Lancet*:—Compared with the clerical, the legal and medical professions appear in a far less favourable light; the mortality figures for barristers and solicitors is 812, and for physicians, surgeons, and general practitioners so high as 1122 against 556 only in the clerical profession. This high rate of mortality in the medical profession is a subject calling for our fuller consideration and investigation, and we are glad to hear that there is a prospect of Dr. Ogle's reading a paper thereon before the Medical and Chirurgical Society during the current session.

M. PASTEUR has consented to treat gratuitously any French soldiers who may be bitten by mad dogs, and the Minister of War has ordered a suite of rooms in the Val de Grâce Military Hospital to be specially fitted up for his anti-rabid treatment.

HYDRONAPHTHOL.—The claim of possessing antiseptic properties ten or fifteen times greater than those of carbolic acid, and of being second in this respect only to corrosive sublimate, whilst at the same time non-poisonous, non-irritant, and non-corrosive, is put forward by Dr. G. R. Fowler, of New York, on behalf of "hydronaphthol," a compound described as belonging to the aromatic series, and bearing the same relation to the hypothetical radical naphthyl as carbolic acid does to phenyl (*Pharm. Record*, 1st Dec., p. 401). Although it is claimed to be so powerful an antiseptic, it is admitted that it is ineffective as a germicide and disinfectant, and that therefore it cannot be relied on for the destruction of already existing germs. On the other hand, a saturated aqueous solution, which would contain only one part of hydronaphthol in one thousand, is alleged to be perfect in its inhibitory action, and to preserve animal tissues and liquids perfectly for an indefinite time, although producing no other perceptible effect upon living tissue than coating it with a slight film. Hydronaphthol is described as having a slight aromatic taste and odour, and crystallising in "scale-like clinorhomboid laminae of a silvery white or greyish hue;" as sparingly soluble in water, but dissolving freely in alcohol, ether, chloroform, glycerine, benzol, and the fixed oils; and as not volatile at ordinary temperatures, though subliming at about 90° C. Triturated with fifty times its weight of carbonate of magnesia or a silicious earth, it forms a powder which is said to present advantages over iodoform for use in surgical operations. Absorbent gauze and similar dressings of hydronaphthol may be prepared by immersing the materials in an alcoholic or benzol solution. Further, it is claimed that hydronaphthol is not decomposed or rendered inert by contact with organic matter or the products of putrefaction.—*Pharmaceutical Journal*.

THE METRIC SYSTEM FROM AN AMERICAN POINT OF VIEW.—Prof. Oscar Oldberg, in the *Druggist's Circular and Chemical Gazette* (New York), recants his previous advocacy of the metric system on the ground that, "being a decimal system, its units are divisible by two into the next lower units only once without striking fractions." "Our American apothecaries' weights and measures," he writes, "are in this respect preferable to the metric system, and if so modified as to render the several units (already parallel) commensurable, our ounces, drachms, and grains, and fluid ounces, fluid drachms, and minimis would give us a very satisfactory system. This might be done by making our troy ounce exactly equal to the weight of one fluid ounce of water at the most common room temperature—that temperature at which we ordinarily do our

work in our laboratories and drug stores—our drachm exactly equal to the weight of a fluid drachm, and the grain equal to the weight of a minim of water at the same temperature. If, in addition, we should change the subdivision of the drachm and fluid drachm, so that one drachm should be 64 instead of 60 grains, and a fluid drachm 64 instead of 60 minimis, the system would be perfect. We would then have :—

$$\begin{aligned} 1 \text{ U.S. apothecaries' ounce} &= 1 \text{ U.S. apothecaries' fluid ounce.} \\ 1 \text{ U.S. } &\text{, drachm} = 1 \text{ U.S. } \text{, fluid drachm.} \\ 1 \text{ U.S. } &\text{, grain} = 1 \text{ U.S. } \text{, minim.} \end{aligned}$$

Also,

$$64 \text{ grains} = 1 \text{ drachm; } 8 \text{ drachms} = 1 \text{ ounce.}$$

And

$$64 \text{ minimis} = 1 \text{ fluid ounce; } 8 \text{ fluid drachms} = 1 \text{ fluid ounce.}$$

The ounces would be divisible into halves, quarters, and eighths, expressed in drachms without fractions; and into 16ths, 32nds, 64ths, &c., expressed in grains or minimis without fractions; and the drachms would be divisible into halves, quarters, 8ths, 16ths, 32nds, and 64ths, expressed in whole grains or minimis.

DISINFECTION BY HEAT.—The *Pharmaceutical Journal* gives the results of an elaborate investigation lately carried out by Dr. Parsons in conjunction with Dr. Klein, at the instance of the Local Government Board. The results of the experiments with steam at 212° F. were conclusive as to its destructive power upon all the contagia submitted to its action, and only in one instance was there room for suspicion that the disinfection was not complete, when the highly-resistant anthrax spores were exposed to steam for five minutes only. The general conclusions as to the practical utility of disinfection by heat are summed up in the report as follows:—For washable articles which will stand boiling in water no other procedure is necessary, due care being taken that infection is not communicated in the removal of the articles. The articles for which a more technical “disinfection” by heat is required are such as will not bear washing in boiling water, such as blankets, rugs, carpets, cloth clothes, pillows, beds, mattresses, furs and dresses. Articles of furniture with stuffed seats may also require disinfection, as well as rags coming from places where epidemic disease prevails. In such cases the application of steam is the most effectual. Letters may be treated in the same way, provided they are not fastened with sealing wax. In all cases where steam is used precautions must be taken against undue wetting of the articles to be disinfected by condensation of the steam. Leather articles are at once destroyed by the application of steam, and consequently their disinfection must be effected by careful exposure to dry heat.

PILOCARPINE IN TOOTHACHE.—Mr. A. P. Kurzakoff, according to the *Medical Press*, states that hypodermic injections of pilocarpine will relieve toothache. A solution of two grains of the salt in half an ounce of distilled water was used, the injection being made into the temporal region on the side of the odontologia. In two of the cases one-eighth, and in a third case one-quarter of a grain of the salt was injected. In all the cases pain disappeared permanently in about an hour after the injection; about the same time salivation and perspiration (caused by the drug) also ceased. In one of the cases, in that of a man, at. 46, with rheumatic periodontitis associated with agonising earache, the injections (of a quarter of a grain) produced profuse vomiting, with cyanosis general weakness, and drowsiness, all of which symptoms disappeared in about an hour and a half after taking 20 drops of tincture of valerian. The author thinks that this simple plan of treatment fully deserves a further and more extensive trial.

Miscellaneous Gleanings.

A MEDICAL journal characterises "beef, iron, and wine" as a "fashionable tipple" and a "popular abomination."

THE *Journal de Medicine* says the acridity of potassium iodide is completely masked when administered in gooseberry syrup.

DR. J. MILTON BOWERS, a physician of some standing in San Francisco, has been found guilty of the murder of his wife by poison.

RECENT experiments show that the normal power of taste will recognise the bitter of quinine when in solution in 152,000 parts of water.

MME. KLUMPKE is the first lady student who has competed successfully for post of hospital house-surgeon in the examinations held at Paris.

A DEATH certificate returned to the proper authorities by a Cincinnati physician gives the cause of death as follows:—"She died with Liver disease and New Monei."

A RECENT law enacted in Georgia, U.S.A., requires all preparations of morphine to be dispensed in scarlet paper, with a scarlet label having the name of the contents in white letters.

THE *Materia Medica* of China requires thirty-eight huge volumes, named Pan-Tso, to describe it. It presents 11,896 formulas, and includes over 1900 substances of supposed medicinal value.

THE sum of £2130 13s. 9d. has been subscribed for the benefit of the family of the late Mr. Henry Watts, F.R.S., editor of the journal of the Chemical Society. After the deduction of the expenses, £2094 remains, and has been invested.

AN official notification has recently been issued in the district of Potsdam, Prussia, ordering that the directions affixed to medicines for internal use shall be written on white paper; while those for medicines for external use are to be written on bright red paper.

THE *Druggists' Circular* states that Henry Ward Beecher's son, who was recently appointed collector at Portland, Oregon, seized £9000 worth of opium which was being smuggled past the Custom-house officers as furs. Of the amount, it is said that he will receive £5000.

THE Sultan of Turkey has sent a scientific mission to Paris for the purpose of studying the anti-rabic method of M. Pasteur. It is also the bearer of the decoration of the Medjidić to the illustrious *savant*, together with a donation of £400 from the Sultan's private purse towards the Pasteur Hospital.

THE American bogus diploma has, it appears, received considerable patronage in Germany, it being stated that in Berlin alone there are upwards of 3000 gentlemen, "Doctors" of Medicine, Law, or Philosophy, who are using it. The authorities are about to take action against these useful members of society.

A DESCRIPTIVE TITLE FOR A PHARMACIST.—Some misunderstanding exists amongst the public as to the signification of "chemist" and "apothecary." A suggestion has been made by a German, who objects to the word "apotheker" as of foreign origin, that the Teutonic pharmacist should be styled "Gesundheitswiederherstellungsmittelzusammenmischungskundiger."

IN a case heard before Mr. Commissioner Kerr, in the City of London Court, recently, the defendant sent a doctor's certificate that he was suffering from illness, and could not attend. Said his Honour:—"From this certificate I can see that a little sulphur and treacle would cure the patient in twenty-four hours. If the doctor does not know that, send him to me, and I will instruct him."

A RUSSIAN journal tells a story of a Polish physician, who, wishing a patient to be dry-cupped in eighteen places, wrote the order with the number

"18" followed by the letter "b," to stand for the Polish word for cups. This was followed by the word meaning "dry." The "b" was mistaken for a figure 6, and the unfortunate patient actually suffered 186 dry cuppings. Our contemporary thinks it well that wet cuppings were not ordered.

In Chicago a death has resulted from the use of 200 grains each of chloral hydrate and potassium bromide. The amount ordered was a 6 ounce mixture, containing 10 grains each of potassium bromide and chloral hydrate to each fluid drachm. The druggist stated in an interview that while the dose (2 fluid drachms every two hours) was not excessive, he thought the quantity was, and so cut it down one half.

OBITUARY.—The *Pharmaceutical Journal* records the death at Paris of M. Bouchardat, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, in his eightieth year. In 1832 M. Bouchardat was a competitor with Dumas for the professorship of Pharmacy and organic chemistry to the Faculty of Medicine, and in 1850 was appointed to the chair of organic chemistry. M. Bouchardat was the author of a large number of memoirs on chemical and physiological subjects, and was connected with the journal at one time known as the *Répertoire de Pharmacie*.

SOME time ago the Pesth correspondent of the *Standard* reported that a large number of arrests had been made in certain villages in South Hungary, chiefly inhabited by Serbs and Roumanians, the evidence going to show that a wholesale epidemic of poisoning had broken out among the women of the place, who administered arsenic to their husbands whenever they wanted to marry somebody else. The first of the trials came on at Pancesova recently, and ended with the conviction of a young peasant woman (Draga Radovancey), who was sentenced to be hanged.

THE income of the British Medical Association for 1885 was £23,713 4s., of which £11,812 16s. 3d. was from subscriptions, and £10,564 from advertisements and sale of the *British Medical Journal*. The cost of the journal was: —Editorial, £3098 5s. 5d.; printing, £9307 16s. 6d.; and commission on advertisements, £1632 18s. 8d.; altogether, £14,039 0s. 7d. All other expenses in connection with the Association amounted to £6361 2s. 8d., so that the year ended with a balance of £3313 0s. 9d. to the good. The invested funds of the Association now amount to close on £20,000.

ABOUT 275 kegs of red herrings which were recently imported by the ship *Talavera* from London were, on Thursday morning, 10th June, condemned by the local board of health as being unfit for human consumption. It appears that, when the herrings were ready for delivery, Mr. T. H. Young, customs agent, of Market-street, who was acting on behalf of the consignee, heard that arsenic had been spilled over the casks. He thereupon saw the agents of the ship, and held a preliminary survey on the goods with the captain, who stated that the so-called arsenic was nothing but whiting. Mr. Young, however, was somewhat dubious on the point, and asked Mr. F. Dunn, public analyst, to test the matter. That gentleman, therefore, proceeded to the sheds and took samples of the powder, and found that it contained arsenic and some other deadly poison. The analyst and Mr. Young at once reported the matter to the proper quarters, with the result stated.

MR. GEO. HARRISON, R.N., had an interesting letter in the *Argus* of a recent date on the subject of "Erythroxylon Coca" (cocaine):—"Will you permit me to draw your attention to the April number of *Chambers' Journal* for the current year, and the subject 'cocaine' (Erythroxylon Coca), which is there described as one of the wonders of the world. Some 60 years ago I was on the coast of Peru when there was a story extant that the Indians in Alta Peru were in the habit of chewing the leaves of a plant or shrub, which would stave off

hunger, thirst, sleep, and fatigue, and that they used it when working in the silver mines on such occasions as they were allowed to raise ore for their own benefit. This shrub was the identical cocaine. For the past twelve years I have been in the constant habit of using Erythroxylon Coca, always taking it 15 drops in a wineglass with two tea-spoons of water before going a journey or undertaking any unusual exertion, and as I am now 82 years of age, it has, at least, not done me much harm. I also repeat the dose on completing my work. But the great object I have in view in asking for your notice of the subject is, that cocaine is said to be a grand panacea for sea-sickness. This, if true, would indeed be a great blessing to travelling mankind, and make it indeed a wonder. It is said to deaden the nerves of the stomach and thus aid in keeping off the *mal de mer*."

Personalities.

LETTERS have been received in Melbourne from Mr. H. Rocke, who arrived in London on the 26th April.

MR. ALBERT ANDREWS, of Beaufort, is, we understand, negotiating for the purchase of a large suburban business.

MESSRS. ROCKE, TOMPSITT AND CO. are the successful tenderers for supplying the Government for the year 1886-7 with medicines, photo-lithographic materials, and dye stuffs.

MR. J. WARRINGTON, who for some years past has carried on business at Echuca, died on the 10th inst. The death of Mr. Thomas Lidwell Smith, of Rushworth, is also recorded.

THE *Nagambie Times* of the 4th June devotes some space to a description of the extensive alterations and additions made by Mr. S. H. Henshall to his branch pharmacy at Nagambie.

MR. CARL GADCKE has disposed of his pharmacy at No. 9 Brunswick-street, Fitzroy East, to Messrs. Max and S. Pincus, who purpose making extensive alterations. Mr. Gadcke goes to Germany for a year's holiday.

MR. W. J. WAKINS, of Messrs. Evans, Lescher, and Webb, is now travelling in Queensland, and will leave Townsville about the 1st of August, for Hong Kong, from whence he will make an extended tour through the Eastern world.

MR. H. GUTHIEL, pharmacist, of Swanston-street, Melbourne, has been victimised to the extent of £40 by a person calling himself Lord Mounteagle, alias John M'Kree. There were a number of other charges of a similar nature against the accused, who was sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

A FIRE was discovered at 10 o'clock on the morning of the 30th May on the premises occupied by Mrs. Davies, chemist and druggist. The origin of the fire was sought for, and found in the fact that the concentrated rays of the sun acting upon one of the large glass bottles, or carboys, of coloured water in the window, formed a lens powerful enough to set on fire some bath gloves, &c.

MR. J. S. RICE, dentist, of Collins-street east, Melbourne, has been officially requested, through the Consul-General of the United States in Melbourne, by the president of the department of oral surgery of the International Medical Congress to prepare an essay on "The Peculiarities of the Teeth, and their Variations of Decay and Diseases, in the Australian Climate." The Congress meets at Washington, U.S.A., in 1887.

THE Quarterly Supper of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia was held at the Maison Dorée on Thursday, 10th inst. The vice-president, Mr. Brinsmead, was in the chair; and the attendance was exceedingly poor. Mr. A. H.

Jackson, B.Sc., the gentleman who has recently arrived to fill the position of Director of the College of Pharmacy, was present as a visitor. It is to be regretted that these social gatherings are not half as well attended as formerly.

MUCH sympathy has been expressed for Mr. W. H. Kernot, chemist, of Geelong, who has sustained a sad bereavement by the loss of his partner in life. Mrs. Kernot, although of a retiring disposition, performed a large amount of good useful work in the amelioration of the sufferings of the poor of the town, and by her many unostentatious charitable acts and deeds of kindness she endeared herself to all in their time of need, and her loss will be severely felt by them. She will be sadly missed by her sorrowing family and a large circle of intimate acquaintances.

It would seem that Mr. Mathews, the well-known chemist of Albury, has been distinguishing himself. It appears that preparations for a local bachelors' ball were in progress, and one of the committee of management had moved a resolution having the effect of excluding the names of certain persons, who had hitherto invariably been among the guests at other public entertainments, from the list of invitations. Mr. Mathews was among those intended to be excluded, and, believing that Dr. Woods had moved the obnoxious resolution, publicly announced his intention of resenting what he regarded as a gratuitous insult. This intention appears to have been carried out in a very practical manner. About noon on the 18th ultimo, as Dr. Woods was leaving the Rose Hotel and crossing the footpath to enter his buggy, Mr. Mathews came up, seized him, and inflicted a severe cut across the face, accompanied with several blows upon other parts of the medico's body, with a riding whip. Bystanders interfered, and the parties were separated. Supreme Court proceedings are expected to follow.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

SLADE.—On the 14th May, at Sale, the wife of J. Slade, chemist, of a daughter.

BROWN.—On the 30th April, at Windsor, the wife of J. T. Brown, chemist, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

PERRY—GOSLING.—On the 6th May, at Carisbrook, by the Rev. J. Onyons, Francis John, chemist, Beechworth Hospital, eldest son of Francis Perry, Esq., to Annie Maria, only daughter of the late Benjamin Gosling, of Carisbrook.

POWERS—BOHN.—On the 8th April, at the Presbyterian Church, South Melbourne, by the Rev. Charles Bell, John Powers, son of J. C. Powers, West Melbourne, to S. "Stella" Rita, daughter of W. C. Bohn, Dunolly.

STOBIE—KIRBY.—On the 1st June, at Minyip, by the Rev. J. Barrett, Edward Haldane, second son of David Grieve Stobie, Melbourne, to Mary Finn, youngest daughter of James Kirby, Minyip.

DEATHS.

ATKIN.—On the 23rd May, at Ravenswood Cottage, South Braybrook, Mrs. Sarah Atkin, relict of the late W. Atkin, Spencer-street, West Melbourne, and beloved mother of Charles Ager Atkin, North Melbourne, after a long and painful illness, aged 83.

KERNOT.—On the 14th May, at Moorabool-street, Geelong (suddenly, of heart disease), Catherine, the beloved wife of William Henry Kernot, aged 53.

BLACKBURN.—On the 29th May, at Horsham, the dearly beloved wife of C. A. Blackburn, chemist, aged 26 years.

SMITH.—On the 3rd June, at Murchison, of chronic disease of the heart, Thomas Lidwell Smith, chemist, Rushworth, second son of the late Thomas Fleathorn and Eleanor Smith, aged 42 years.

WARRINGTON.—On the 10th June, at Hare-street, Echuca, John Warrington, chemist, aged 45 years.

THE AUSTRALASIAN Journal of Pharmacy.

No. 7.]

JULY, 1886.

[VOL. I.

Original and Selected Articles.

DESCRIPTION OF AN HITHERTO UNRECORDED SPECIES OF EUCALYPTUS FROM NEW BRITAIN;

BY BARON VON MUELLER, K.C.M.G., M. & PH.D., F.R.S., F.C.S. &c.

IN a small collection of plants, formed some time ago in New Britain by Mr. J. Turner, occurs what to all appearance is a veritable species of *Eucalyptus*, a genus not previously known as represented there, although the Rev. G. Brown spoke already of *Eucalypts*, noticed by him in New Ireland during his missionary travels. The closer investigation of the Flora of New Guinea more recently has rendered the comparison of the Papuan vegetation with that of Australia gradually possible at least to a fractional extent ; thus any Australian features in the Flora of any of the adjacent islands have become of augmented interest also now. But the *Eucalyptus*, referred to on this occasion, interests us not merely phytogeographically, but more particularly as likely affording timber of useful quality and in copious readily available quantity, *eucalypts* often being gregarious ; and we may furthermore perhaps gain in this tall species a new tree for tropical forest-culture and possibly even for medicinal products.

Eucalyptus Naudiniana.—Branchlets valid, angular ; leaves scattered, on short broadish stalks, ovate-lanceolar, acuminate, much paler beneath ; their primary veins distant, thin, very spreading and somewhat ascending, the peripheral vein not quite close to the edge of the leaf ; veinlets subtle ; oil-dots much concealed ; panicles ample, terminal or from the upper axils ; flowers small, nine or often fewer in each umbel ; stalklets angular, as long as the total calyx or somewhat longer ; tube of the latter hemispheric, slightly angular ; lid hardly longer, almost semiglobular, suddenly produced into a thin beak-like apex ; stamens all fertile and all inflected while in bud ; anthers minute roundish-ovate, bursting longitudinally ; style short ; stigma not dilated ; ovary surpassed by the calyx-tube, somewhat convex and angular at the summit.

Near Spacious Bay ; J. Turner. The specimens communicated by Ch. Moore, Esq., F.L.S., Director of the Botanic Garden of Sydney. A tree, attaining a height of about 100 feet. Leaves usually 3—4 inches long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ — $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches broad, slightly inequilateral, not very thick in texture, dark-green and shining above, quite dull beneath. Panicles measuring from a few to several inches, the majority of their branches not opposite. Total length of the calyces hardly more than $\frac{1}{8}$ inch. Stamens very numerous. Style only about $\frac{1}{3}$ inch long. Fruit unknown. This species bears in some respect near affinity to *E. Cloeziana* ; but the branchlets are much thicker, the leaf-stalks dilated upwards, the leaves broader, less oblique and of firmer structure with a soft lustre on the surface, the branches of the panicle and also the stalklets are more angular, while the lid is conspicu-

ously pointed, the ovary less depressed and the style shorter. The fruit, irrespective of perhaps bark and wood, may also be different.

In the last number of this periodical I alluded to some Eugenias with eucalyptoid calyces, by which an approach is offered thus far to the genus *Eucalyptus*; but in the species from New Britain the petals being entirely absent, as in all other congeners, it is not likely, that the carpologic characteristics will prove others than those of *Eucalyptus* and not eugeniod.

I seize on this opportunity, as perhaps the last that ever would be afforded me, to connect with a distinct specific form of the genus *Eucalyptus* now permanently the name of Prof. Ch. Naudin, Ph.D., Memb. de l'Inst., Director of the famous experimental garden of Antibes, who by cultural researches and watchful studies in that grand Institution has much aided in augmenting the forest-resources of the countries around the Mediterranean Sea, and who has simultaneously by literary elucidations even at a venerable age brought the Eucalysts in his own great country under fuller cognisance as among the leading timber trees of the globe.

PHARMACY IN COUNTRY AND TOWN.

By "PILA."

To turn from the listless, slow, and in many cases positively idle man, to one who is energetic, and consequently prosperous, is always a pleasurable experience. I have often asserted that enterprise is better and more quickly rewarded in these colonies than in any other country, not excluding the great Anglo-Saxon communities of North America. Given fair health and ordinary qualifications, all may get on, and, by judicious management, make provision for the future, even if the "pile" does not attain a very remarkable altitude.

A contrast—a very great contrast—to the usual run of pharmacists came under my notice on one occasion in the eastern portion of Victoria. This gentleman had found—probably by experience—that, population being limited—no railway at the time he started—and the climate remarkably healthy, the sale of drugs, although highly respectable, and profitable, too, having regard to the investment, did yet barely suffice to pay expenses, and, what was quite as bad, only occupied a small portion of his time.

Determined not to be idle—and this determination is the foundation of fortune—he started a general store, and in a few years had a going concern that would titillate the salivary ducts of some Melbourne "merchants!"

After making myself known to this enterprising chemist as one of his "ilk" seeking information, I was shown over the establishment, or, rather, series of businesses, collected on one piece of ground within a "ring" fence. First I was shown a vast ironmongery establishment under distinct management, containing, apparently, enough nails, bolts, screws, tools, &c., to supply a town. Attached to this was a plumber's shop in full swing, everything complete, and, beyond, the clang of hammers betrayed the tinsmith. Pumps, chains, buckets, and hooks were stored under sheds in the yard, one side of which was used as a dépôt for sawn timber, split rails, posts, &c. Through a door, and we are in a draper's shop, smiling young ladies in the "millinery department," smart young men behind the counters, a staff of clerks and boys, all quite as good, but, of course, not so extensive, as some town shops. Alongside this a grocery store, containing the multifarious condiments which modern civilisation demands even among free selectrs. Away in the dim distance at the bottom of the store, sacks of seed, trusses of straw, and something like a good stock of pianos, were just discernible.

For the last—the “bonne bouche”—the pharmacy was reserved, a little place, the only one in the township, but quite sufficient to meet all demands, packed from floor to ceiling with drugs, specialties, and “toilet requisites.” The most melancholy employé in the place was the man who did the drugs. His employer, by his admirable pluck and energy, had long since dropped the small style of doing business, and possessed himself of an extensive tract of land, with hill and dale, ferntree gully and forest, on which to build him a house—a veritable “*rus in urbe*”—and in which to enjoy well-merited repose when the time came.

After the many “slow” places I had met with in Victoria this last experience was an interesting proof that to the chemist, as well as to men of sound faith, “all things are possible.”

It is proposed to hold an International Pharmaceutical Exhibition in Geneva in 1888.

PROFESSOR NAMUR, of Echternach, Luxemburg, claims to have discovered an effective means for the extermination of the terrible vine pest, the phylloxera. It consists of a kind of manure, which continually gives off an atmosphere charged with sulphuretted hydrogen, which is poison to the insects.

IN Italy a living scorpion is dropped into a wide-necked glass bottle, which contains a few drops of olive oil of the finest quality. More oil is poured on instantly until the bottle is filled and the scorpion dead. In its struggle to free itself it ejects all its poison into the oil, and this poisoned oil forms a sovereign remedy for the sting of a scorpion.—*Nat. Druggist.*

DR. E. L. KEYES, in the New York *Medical Journal*, recommends milk as a vehicle for the administration of iodide of potassium. Where large quantities of the drug have to be taken the stomach does not rebel when milk is used as the vehicle. Ten, or more, grains of the iodide in a gill of milk make a palatable drink, and impart only a mild metallic taste to the fluid, which is said to be not disagreeable.

A CURIOUS result of a raid which the mob at Chicago made on a chemist's shop during the recent riots has become known. Eight Bohemians and Poles have died in great agony from drinking large quantities of what they supposed to be intoxicating liquors of the ordinary kinds so popular amongst the masses, but which were really strong poisons taken from bottles found in the plundered shop. Much of this was wine of colchicum, resembling sherry, and having a strong smell of alcohol. Many of the rioters drank this in huge gulps, with the result that they died in horrible convulsions. Others drank tincture of paregoric in the same way, with fatal results. Eight are known to be dead and four are dying. There are no means of ascertaining how many others were affected.—*Brit. and Col. Druggist.*

THE unrestricted traffic in patent medicines is a disgrace to our civilisation; communities and States are up in arms against alcohol as a beverage in all its forms except the one most detestable and villainous. Introduce some vile ingredient into the alcohol, christen and label it as a patent medicine, and lo! it is robed in innocence and welcomed to the homes of the righteous. A poison can be legally sold as such in most States only with a flaring label of warning, and after double or triple forms of registration by a competent pharmacist. Put it up as a patent medicine, decorate it with a seductive title and a rainbow wrapper, and at once it is beyond the restraints of regulation, and may be sold by street-hawkers, slaughter shops, anybody and everybody, without let or hindrance. Where is the consistency, the intelligence, the justice, in this strange partiality for the nostrum curse?—*Western Druggist.*

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With which is incorporated the Australasian Chemist and Druggist.

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No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will be glad to consider any suggestions from Members and Subscribers regarding the improvement of this publication.

Contributions of any items of interest are invited.

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Readers are respectfully requested to mention this Journal when acting on information obtained from it.

Editorial.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

THE *Pharmaceutical Journal and Transactions* of 8th May gives us the text of the Forty-fifth Annual Report of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, presented at the annual general meeting of the society of 19th May. And, considered *in globo*, the council's budget is an interesting one. To begin with, the most gratifying announcement is made that the receipts of the year had exceeded the expenditure by upwards of £1200. This amount, together with a portion of last year's credit balance, making a total of £2000, had been invested in Government stock. A decrease in members' subscriptions is noted, but contributions from other subscribers had increased; and the society benefited by examination fees to the extent of £300 in excess of the amount received from the same source in the preceding term. One hundred candidates presented themselves at the major examination, 955 at the minor, and 1278 at the preliminary. But while the number of candidates exceeded that of last year, the council regrets that the failures should again have been so numerous. The *Pharmaceutical Journal* attributes this circumstance to the present deficiency of systematic training, and remarks, "It affords special reason for regret that the efforts of the council to provide a remedy for this evil have not yet been crowned with the success that has so long been hoped for." The report particularises the technical objections raised by the Privy Council to the alterations of the bye-laws of the society, which had been proposed with a view to better the systematic training, and states that there is reason to believe that the society's educational scheme will presently be adopted. The cost of publishing the *Pharmaceutical Journal and Transactions* is reported to have been more than covered by the revenue from adver-

tisements and sales. Numerous and valuable additions to the libraries in London and Edinburgh are reported, and the attendance at the institutions named is said to have been of a satisfactory character. The report gives expression to the council's regret at the retirement of Professor Redwood from the Chair of Chemistry and Pharmacy, and hopefully anticipates that the members heartily approve of the movement to found a scholarship in connection with the society's school, to be called the Redwood Scholarship, in honour of the gentleman with whose name it is associated. Reference is made to the steps which had been taken to establish a constitutional mode of conducting the society's business in Scotland; and the council's decision to institute and equip a Research Laboratory is also noted. The income of the Benevolent Fund is stated at about the same as last year; but the report mentions that the council "feels compelled again to direct attention to the fact that the number of persons eligible to receive assistance who do not subscribe to the fund is still in the proportion of more than five to one as compared with those on the list of subscribers." In referring to the obituary of the year, the council honours with particular mention the names of Henry Sugden Evans, Dr. Xavier Landerer, and Professor Hermann Von Fehling.

Of special interest to Australasian pharmacists are those portions of the report dealing with the projected Research Laboratory and the educational scheme.

With the former matter we dealt at some length in our June issue, and there seems no occasion to seek further for a convincing proof that such an institution is urgently needed than our recently published note of a report by the Pharmaceutical Society's analyst, wherein he makes the astounding confession that it is not yet known to science whether the therapeutic value of sandalwood oil is properly ascribed to that article or to the cedar wood oil with which it is commonly adulterated. If additional testimony were required, it is to be found in our May issue, wherein we gave the details of a Nottingham coronial inquiry into the death of two children, which was found to have resulted from taking a cough mixture, in which so common a medicament as syrup of squill had been the principal factor. In addressing the jury, the coroner explained that the outside portions of the sea onion, from whence the syrup of squill is obtained, is of greater strength than that of the interior, and, said he, we are brought face to face with the fact that there is no standard of strength for the article in question which had produced such poisonous results. Our editorial of last month treated of the society's proposal in general terms; but the cases here particularised emphasise our previous remarks, and should conclusively show that the society's proposal is one for the adoption of which there is very urgent need, and upon the successful establishment of which the profession and public have every reason to hope to have an early opportunity of congratulating themselves.

We have so repeatedly urged the necessity of providing means for the systematic teaching of those who desire to join the profession, as well as insisting upon the advantages which would accrue to all classes of the community through the raising of the educational standard, that anything which we might now add could scarcely be other than iteration of former remarks. Therefore, we need scarcely say that the efforts of the British society to establish a system of preparatory training has our heartiest sympathy. Something to this end has been accomplished by the classes of practical dispensing for some time conducted by Mr. Joseph Ince; and also a work in the desired direction is Professor Redwood's series of lectures on pharmacy, which he had just entered upon as our latest mail left London. That no less than 212 candidates, out of a total of 409, had failed at the recent preliminary examination conclusively shows how special is the necessity for the contemplated improvement in the present deplorable state of affairs.

If the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain had nothing further to show for its year's work than the ventilation of the matters enumerated it would have done good service, and it is most gratifying to note that some substantial progress had been made with both of them.

NEW SOUTH WALES PHARMACISTS AND THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS' BILL.

THE Medical Practitioners' Bill, recently introduced into the Assembly of New South Wales by Dr. Tarrant, appears to have, rightly or wrongly, created a good deal of uneasiness to pharmacists in that colony, and our friends across the border are, accordingly, to be congratulated on having their fears set at rest by the introduction of a clause expressly protecting them from the operation of any of its provisions, which might otherwise have been taken advantage of to harass and annoy them. It would be a mistake to refer to this result as being in any way a "victory," for, so far as we can see, there was no intention on the part of Dr. Tarrant to circumscribe any of the recognised or prescriptive rights of pharmacists, the bill simply providing, to use his own words, that "unregistered medical men should not assume titles which they had no right to assume," and preventing them from "giving evidence as skilled witnesses in courts of law, and from suing for services rendered." In thus confining the scope of the bill, Dr. Tarrant has closely followed the lines of legislation in Great Britain, where Parliament has repeatedly refused to grant a monopoly in the treatment of disease to medical men, and where, indeed, a Royal Commission reported a few years ago that "we consider it undesirable to attempt to prevent unregistered persons from practicing, but we think they should be prevented from representing themselves as being registered, or from assuming titles which would lead the public to believe that they are regular medical men." In view of these facts, we are not a little surprised to find our esteemed contemporary, the *Australasian Medical Gazette*, writing, in its June number, of the New South Wales chemists and druggists as being exercised in their minds as to possible interference with their gains by "illegitimate medical practice;" although, indeed, we must admit that the ill-advised proposal to introduce a clause entitling them "to come in and register as apothecaries under this Act, and practice as hitherto," goes far to excuse a good many hard words that are hurled at pharmacists in general in the article quoted from. In prescribing for slight ailments on which they may be consulted by their customers, to whom the fees charged by the medical faculty would frequently be a very serious matter, pharmacists are subserving a most useful public function; they do not entice the public by any false pretences to consult them; and should any pharmacist be found taking upon himself the responsibility of dealing with cases demanding the skill and training of a qualified practitioner, no section of the community would more sternly reprobate his action than that formed by the members of his own profession. In face of these facts we think the *Gazette* will find it somewhat difficult to justify the use of the word "illegitimate" to a practice which is certainly not illegal, and which has been sanctioned by custom, not only in the colonies, but in the mother country. It may possibly refer with triumph to a contemporary trade journal, which gravely informs its readers that "when any pharmacist, unqualified as regards medicine or surgery, professes to make up a mixture for croup, or liver complaint, or a lotion for skin disease, or prescribes for kidney disorders, he exceeds his duty altogether, and renders himself

liable to prosecution for illegitimate practice." The good sense of pharmacists may be relied upon in deciding as to the cases for which they should, or should not, prescribe, but it will be news to our friends in New South Wales, as it is to ourselves, that in prescribing for cases such as are here enumerated they render themselves liable to prosecution, and we confess to no little curiosity as to the statute in which this liability has been allowed so long to lie entombed. But to conclude. Pharmacists, as we have said, make no pretensions to medical qualifications to which they have no right, and any interference with present practice is to be deprecated, not so much on their account as on that of the general public, who would, we believe, keenly resent being compelled to obtain medical advice on every trifling ailment for which the experience of a chemist qualifies him to prescribe. Dr. Tarrant's bill goes quite as far as experience has shown to be necessary for the public welfare, and we trust ere long to find physicians and pharmacists in New South Wales heartily united in one common object, the detection and exposure of those lying quacks and charlatans against whom the bill is specially directed.

Notes on British Society Meetings.

At the meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, held on 5th May, the report of the Law and Parliamentary Committee was received, recommending that nitro-glycerine and its medical preparations should be included in Part I. of the Schedule of Poisons. The recommendation was adopted by the meeting, it being reported that a communication had been received from the Privy Council stating that the propriety of introducing a new Poisons Bill was under consideration, and that the recommendations of the Council would be dealt with when the bill was drafted. The report of the April examinations (England and Wales) showed that only 86 candidates had passed out of 205 who presented themselves. In Scotland 23 passed, out of 66 candidates. Among the donations to the library is mentioned the Pharmaceutical Register for 1885, presented by the Pharmacy Board of Victoria.

THE Chemists and Druggists' Trade Association held its general meeting on 18th May, when the Association completed the tenth year of its existence. The annual report is not of a satisfactory character, for, while it is shown that the Association has done good work in the defence of members who had been subjected to prosecutions, the register only numbers 3034 names, and even that very moderate strength is declining. It is stated that the number of outstanding subscription is so large as to give cause for fear that it will soon be impossible to carry on the work of the Association on the present financial basis, the subscription being almost nominal. That less than a third of the chemists and druggists of Great Britain should be among the Association's nominal supporters is, in itself, discouraging enough; but we are further told that only about two in every three of these are fully financial.

AT a meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (5th May), the president referred to the fact that frequent inquiries had been addressed to the Council by licentiates of the society, as to whether they were eligible to practise in the various colonies. Information upon this point had been sought, but the only certain answer presented was to the effect that the society's license was not recognised in New South Wales. It was reported that 4 out of 11 candidates had failed at the preliminary examination, and only 2 out of 9 candidates had passed the science examination. The receipt was acknowledged of the annual report of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia.

THE forty-fifth annual general meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain was held on 19th May last. The Report, to the leading features of which we make reference in an editorial note, was adopted, but not without considerable discussion. A strong feeling was manifested in favour of enlarging the scope of the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, and a resolution was carried recommending to the favourable consideration of the council the desirability of extending the usefulness of the *Journal*. A vigorous but unsuccessful effort was made by the Scotch members to obtain a satisfactory settlement of the differences at present existing between the society and the North British Branch by the appointment of a committee, elected from the English and Scotch members, to deal with the question.

A CLEANLY AND ECONOMICAL METHOD OF APPLYING OINTMENTS.—At a meeting of the Manchester Medical Society on 21st April Dr. Brooke exhibited a number of ointments, prepared with a solid base, composed with cacao, butter, wax, and oil, or lanolin, and cast into the form of sticks ("salve-sticks"). He had found them particularly useful in making applications to the face and hands, since, their melting point being high, they did not run at the temperature of the body, as did ointments prepared with the ordinary bases; and, when dusted over with powder, they were practically invisible. When covered with Mather's, or Seabury and Johnson's adhesive rubber (waterproof) plaster, they offered a mode of applying remedies to the skin which was more durable than the Unna-Beiersdorf plasters, and less expensive. With this protective covering, they were especially applicable to the treatment of psoriasis by chrysarobin, and possessed several advantages over the methods of Pick, Auspitz, and Besnier, in that the fatty menstruum was preserved; they did not need such frequent renewal; they were more readily applied, and did not cause any disagreeable dragging on the skin and hairs. The fear of staining the clothing was completely removed, and the patient might, moreover, bathe without disturbing the dressing. They were supplied enclosed in small cases, like those used for cosmetics, so that they could be conveniently carried in the pocket. Somewhat similar preparations, which had been since brought out and described by Dr. Unna, were also shown.

THE *British and Colonial Druggist* reports that at a recent meeting of the Royal Botanic Society, Dr. Cogswell read a paper upon "*Camassia esculenta*," the camass of the North American Indians, a liliaceous plant, whose bulbs were once a staple food of the aborigines of the Western slope of the Rocky Mountains, though now it has given place in great measure to the white man's corn and vegetables. The season of flowering was held as a high festival by the tribes that assembled together to dig up the bulbs, the maiden who gathered the greatest quantity being estimated the most eligible for matrimony. Specimens of the plant in flower from the Society's garden were shown at the meeting.

A PRELIMINARY meeting of the British Association, in connection with the visit of the Association to Manchester, was held on 8th May. It was resolved to raise the sum of £3000 to cover the expenses of the visit.

At the May meeting of the Microscopical Society the president exhibited and described a new condenser which he had invented, styled the "The Desideratum." It is put forth as a substitute for the expensive condensers now in use, and it appeared to be regarded by the meeting as a very valuable addition to microscopic accessories.

A DENTIST in Berlin has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment for kissing a lady on whose teeth he was operating in his house.

Notes from Foreign Journals.

THE *Pharmaceutical Journal* states that on the Continent the word "Trinctrine" has been adopted in prescriptions as a synonym for nitro-glycerine, in order that in unusually legible prescriptions the patient may not be alarmed by reading the word nitro-glycerine.

THE American papers report some recent poisoning cases, in which fatal results are alleged to have occurred from carbolic acid, chlorate of potassium, and chloral hydrate, with bromide of potassium, respectively. The first is that of Dr. J. H. Gleason, a physician lately of considerable repute in Cleveland, Ohio, who entered a drug store for his usual "dram," and seeing two graduated measures on the prescription counter containing whisky, as he thought, took up one and swallowed the contents. He had taken by mistake a fluid ounce of carbolic acid, and, in spite of attempted remedial measures, died in great agony in less than a quarter of an hour.

A CHILD POISONED BY ITS NURSE'S COSMETIC.—A German practitioner being called to see a child of five weeks old who was continually crying and suffering from colic, and whose skin was of a dull bluish tint, was somewhat puzzled as to diagnosis, until looking at the nurse's face, and seeing it of a brilliant white and red tint, he touched the surface, which left a greasy stain on his finger of a cosmetic rich in lead. This poisonous substance the nurse had long been in the habit of using for the purpose of improving her complexion. The cause of the child's colic being removed, and appropriate treatment adopted, a cure was effected in a few days.

THE *American Druggist* warns its readers against adopting lanolin as a basis for those ointments which are not intended to be absorbed by the skin. Where the constitutional effects of a drug are required, as, for instance, in the case of metallic mercury, lanolin is strongly recommended, but its use in association with Pulvis Arsenicalis Cosmi, red oxide of mercury, nitrate of silver, pyrogallic acid, white precipitate, or naphthol is strongly urged against.

IN the *Pharmaceutical Journal and Transactions* of 8th May, a correspondent signing himself "John" writes:—"In the new *Pharmacopœia* the formula for zinc ointment gives no directions for levigating the oxide before adding to it the melted lard. By rubbing the oxide into a smooth paste with olive oil—about half an ounce of oil to each ounce of zinc—and then pouring in the melted lard, you get an ointment a little softer than the B.P. preparation, but beautifully smooth. I should like to know if it is possible to produce a presentable ointment by following the directions of the *Pharmacopœia*." In the succeeding number of the paper quoted, "R. J. D." replies to the above:—"I have certainly been able to make a presentable ointment, following the B.P. directions, by first putting the oxide into an extemporised muslin bag, and sifting it on to the melted lard while stirring it."

A LAW case of considerable interest to physicians and chemists is reported in the *Amer. Jour. Pharm.* for May. Frank E. Engelman, the proprietor of a nostrum (snuffene) for the cure of hay fever, sued Dr. Carl Sieler, of the University of Pennsylvania, for damages alleged to have been sustained on account of a lecture delivered before the alumni of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, in which he advised his hearers not to use the article manufactured by Mr. Engelman, of which he spoke in somewhat contemptuous terms. The court affirmed the defendant's right to lecture upon and express his opinions of the "medicine," and, as there was no evidence to show that he was actuated by spiteful motives, felt compelled to direct the jury to return a verdict for the defendant.

THE *Pharmaceutical Journal and Transactions* of 15th May has a complimentary notice of Messrs. Dupré and Hake's "Short Manual of Chemistry." It says:—"The information is concisely given, but is very thorough, and the book is one of the best *manuals* of chemistry with which we are acquainted; whilst its completeness, and a good index, constitute it a not insignificant work of reference." The same paper also commends "A Practical Introduction to Chemistry," by W. A. Shenstone, a work of a more elementary, but very valuable, character."

IN its report of a pharmaceutical meeting recently held at Philadelphia, the *American Journal of Pharmacy* writes:—"Professor Maisch called attention to *lanolin*, the fat prepared from suint, the soap obtained by washing sheep's wool. The specimen was made by Messrs. T. Metcalf and Co., of Boston, and labelled *Agnine*, as a registered trade mark. The very rank odour which adheres to it very persistently is unfortunate, but the speedy absorption of the fat when rubbed upon the skin, and the entire disappearance of the odour as soon as the grease is absorbed, are quite noteworthy. A number of experiments have been made to remove the odour and dark colour. One specimen had been digested with charcoal for two months; another had been treated with peroxide of hydrogen, which had removed its odour very greatly, but it seems desirable to free it entirely from both odour and colour."

SOZOLIC acid ($C_6H_4OH_1SO_2OH$)—one of the phenyl-sulphurous acids—is, writes "Paracelsus," in the *British and Colonial Druggist*, to be the antiseptic of the future, according to a communication made to the French *Académie des Sciences* by M. Serant. It is not poisonous—in small quantities, I presume, is meant—but is very easily eliminated from the system, and is very soluble in water. Moreover, neither carbolic nor salicylic acids nor eucalyptole approach it in point of efficacy as an antizyme. Let us hope so.

ACCORDING to the *Maryland* (U.S.) *Med. Jour.*, the proposed Medical Bill for that State, based upon those of Illinois and West Virginia, will probably not pass the Legislature, since the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland has reconsidered its endorsement and withdrawn its approval, on account of the homœopathic element on the proposed board.

THE ABUSE OF NARCOTICS.—Scarcely a week passes (writes the *Lancet*) without some sad proof of the folly of a reckless or insufficiently careful use of narcotics. It is almost to be regretted that so many agents capable of producing mimic, or poisoned, sleep are known to the profession and to the public. It is now the exception, instead of the rule, to find a man or woman of middle age who is not more or less addicted to the abuse of morphia, chloral, bromide of potassium, or some one of the many sleep-inducers or pain-relievers which the nineteenth century has distinguished itself by evolving for the care and comfort of our less enduring and increasingly sensitive and excitable humanity. It is nothing to the purpose that the deleterious effects of these potent drugs, when taken habitually, even in small quantities, have been again and again exposed. Practitioners have, as we do not scruple to insist in and out of season, much responsibility for the growing fashion of taking narcotics or anodynes by mouth or hypodermically. It is so pleasantly facile to prescribe a remedy which is sure to give present relief, whatever may happen in the future; and those who have learnt to purchase unconsciousness or ease at what seems to be a very small price are only too ready to renew the experience when any fresh cause of sleeplessness or pain arises. Sooner or later some strong measure will need to be taken with the view of arresting this really serious "habit" of taking sedatives, which is extending its influence and gaining strength year by year. Meanwhile, we do very earnestly counsel our readers to refrain from having

recourse to these drugs themselves, and to use their authority with patients in condemnation of a demoralising and disastrous practice. The victims of the abuse must not simply be counted by those who die of it, but by those who are left to drag out miserable lives, the victims of "cravings" and nameless and numberless sufferings which morphia, chloral, bromid—now cocaine—and a host of insidious poisons are the active agents in producing.

PROFESSOR HUXLEY ON SMOKING.—At a certain debate on smoking among the members of the British Association, Professor Huxley told the story of his struggles in a way which utterly put the anti-tobacconists to confusion. "Forty years of my life," said he, "tobacco had been a deadly poison to me. (Loud cheers from the anti-tobacconists.) In my youth, as a medical student, I tried to smoke. In vain! At every fresh attempt my insidious foe stretched me prostrate on the floor. (Repeated cheers.) I entered the navy. Again I tried to smoke, and again I met with defeat. I hated tobacco. I could have almost lent my support to any institution that had for its object the putting of tobacco smokers to death. (Vociferous cheering.) A few years ago I was in Brittany with some friends; we went to an inn; they began to smoke and looked very happy; and, outside, it was very wet and dismal. I thought I would try a cigar. (Murmurs.) I did so. (Great expectations.) I smoked that cigar—it was delicious! (Groans.) From that moment I was a changed man, and now I feel that smoking in moderation is a comfortable and laudable practice, and is productive of good. (Dismay and confusion of the anti-tobacconists. Roars of laughter from the smokers.) There is no more harm in a pipe than there is in a cup of tea. You may poison yourself by drinking too much green tea, and kill yourself by eating too many beefsteaks. For my own part, I consider that tobacco, in moderation, is a sweetener and equaliser of the temper." (Total rout of the anti-tobacconists, and complete triumph of the smokers.)—*Medical and Surgical Reporter*.

PASTEUR'S HYDROPHOBIA PRACTICE.—At a recent meeting of the Academy of Sciences, Paris, M. Pasteur announced that he had treated the following number of people from different countries for bites from mad dogs:—France 505, Algeria, 40, Russia 75, England 25, Italy 24, Austro-Hungary 13, Belgium 10, North America 9, Finland 6, Germany 5, Portugal 5, Spain 4, Greece 3, Switzerland 1, Brazil 1. This makes a total of 726.

SMOKERS may be pleased to know that an antidote has been discovered which will enable them to enjoy their pipes or cigars without any fear of being poisoned by nicotine. It would appear that the water-cress destroys the toxic principle of tobacco, preserving at the same time its aroma. It is sufficient to wet the tobacco with the juice of the water-cress, which will completely deprive the tobacco of its deleterious principles.—*American Practitioner and News*.

DR. E. N. LIEL, of New York, reports a case of poisoning from eighteen grains of citrate of caffeine, which was relieved by hypodermics of atropia, and dram doses of whisky.

PYROPHOSPHATE is recommended for the removal of ink stains. It is claimed for this salt that it does not injure vegetable fibre. First apply tallow to the ink spot, then wash in a solution of pyrophosphate until both tallow and ink have disappeared.

ACCORDING to the *Medical Abstract* the discovery has been made in Columbia of a shrub which exudes a juice having so powerful an effect in arresting the flow of blood that large veins may be cut with a knife and smeared with it without causing hemorrhage. The plant is called "aliza" by the natives.

Victoria.

PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA.

THE monthly meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria was held at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, Melbourne, on Wednesday, the 14th July, 1886.

Present—Messrs. Blackett, Brind, Owen, Francis, Strutt, and Tompsitt.

The president (Mr. C. R. Blackett) in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION.

The following persons, having made the necessary declaration, were registered as pharmaceutical chemists:—

Frederic Robert Tyler, Pyrmont, Sydney, an assistant in Victoria before the passing of the Act.

Robert Reid M'Kean, Port Melbourne, passed the Major Examination, Victoria.

APPRENTICES' INDENTURES REGISTERED.

Valerio Brunetti, 250 Nicholson-street, Fitzroy, apprenticed to Mr. Thomas Huntsman.

Alexander Cathie, Beaufort, apprenticed to Mr. Albert Andrews, Beaufort.

Frank E. Harsant, Donald, apprenticed to Mr. Thomas Harsant, Donald.

SALE AND USE OF POISONS ACT.—RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATES.

Edward Blake, Ballan.

Harry John Olle, Penshurst.

Several special applications for registration were considered, and in the case of G. A. Dimock, who is applying to the Supreme Court for a *mandamus* to compel the Board to issue to him a certificate that he is eligible for registration as a pharmaceutical chemist, it was resolved that the Registrar be authorised to take necessary steps to defend the action.

In the case of Michael William Butler, of Sandhurst, who appeared through his attorneys (Messrs. Brown and Ellison, of Sandhurst) for a certificate that he is qualified for registration, the Board, after giving careful consideration to the application, did not feel justified in acceding to the request.

Other communications were dealt with from Messrs. H. Wright, White, Andrews, Rogers, Plummer, J. J. M'Loughlin, Gieve, the Secretary Court of Medical Examiners, Hobart, &c.

NAMES ERASED FROM THE PHARMACEUTICAL REGISTER OF VICTORIA.

John Warrington, Echuca (deceased).

Thomas Lidwell Smith, Rushworth ,

Charles Gray M'Farlane, Fitzroy ,

THE HALF-YEARLY BALANCE SHEET.

The balance-sheet to the end of the financial year, 30th June, was submitted by the treasurer.

Police reports and other confidential business brought the meeting to a close.

THE personal estate of the late James Stannes, chemist and druggist, of Tavistock, who died in December last, has been valued at £13,000. Among the legacies are £1000 to the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, and £1000 to the benevolent fund of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

THE monthly meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia was held at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, Melbourne, on Friday, the 9th July, 1886.

Present—Messrs. Huntsman, Hooper, Baker, Tompsitt, Harrison, and Kingsland.

In the absence of the president and vice-president, Mr. T. Huntsman was voted to the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Apologies were received from Messrs. C. R. Blackett and J. Brinsmead.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

The following new members, having conformed to the necessary forms of application, were balloted for and duly elected:—

Frederic Percy Wood, Fremantle, W.A.

Siegfried Pincus, 9 Brunswick-street, Fitzroy.

William Fisher Warbreck, Murtoa.

Edwin John Nicholson, Richmond.

Thos. Bevan Jones, Barkly and Canning streets, Carlton.

THE INTERCOLONIAL PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

The committee submitted their report, which stated that a number of replies had been received in response to the preliminary circular issued in May last. In New Zealand the time had been too short to allow of replies coming to hand from the various centres. From South Australia and Tasmania favourable answers were sent, although in South Australia the names of the delegates could not be furnished. Some additions to the programme have been received from Queensland, who have stated their intention of being represented, but in consequence of the unfortunate illness of Mr. Frank Taylor, of Brisbane, the full details have not yet been furnished. From New South Wales Mr. Larmer, the president of the Pharmaceutical Society, writes that in consequence of the pressure of business the matter has not been dealt with, but that it would be submitted at the next meeting of the Council.

The report was received, and it was resolved to extend the time for receiving replies to the 31st July next.

AMENDED TERMS FOR THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY FOR 1887.

The committee appointed to consider this matter forwarded the following recommendation to the council:—

That there be two sessions in each year:—The first session commencing on the second Monday in January, and ending on the last Friday in May. The second session commencing on the last Monday in June, and ending on the last Friday in November.

LECTURES.

The lectures on chemistry to be held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 9.30 to 10.30 a.m.; practical work in the laboratory not less than two hours three days a week.

MATERIA MEDICA AND BOTANY.

Lectures on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9.30 to 10.30 a.m.

FEES.

For one course—Materia Medica and Botany		... £12	12	0
Chemistry and Practical Chemistry } ...				
The entire session, two courses—Materia Medica and Botany	... 6	6	0	
do do do Chemistry and Practical Chemistry	... 10	10	0	

SINGLE SUBJECTS.

One course—Materia Medica and Botany ...	...	...	...	£5 5 0
do Chemistry and Practical Chemistry ...	...	...	...	8 8 0
The above are for pharmaceutical students only.				

CHEMISTRY.

The Laboratories for practical instruction in Chemistry will be open daily (Saturdays excepted), from 9.30 to 4.30, and are fitted up with every convenience for the study of the principles of Chemistry by personal experiment in its application to medicine manufactures, analysis, or original research. There will be no general class for simultaneous instruction, each student following an independent course of study, always determined by his previous knowledge. Pupils can, therefore, enter for any period at any date.

PRACTICAL CHEMISTRY.

Fees.

1 day a week, from 9.30 to 4.30	...	...	...	£5 5 0
do do 3 hours ...	...	...	...	3 11 6
2 days a week, from 9.30 to 4.30, 6 hours	...	...	...	9 9 0
do do 3 hours ...	...	...	...	6 6 0
3 do do from 9.30 to 4.30, 6 hours	...	...	...	13 13 0
do do 3 hours ...	...	...	...	9 9 0
4 do do from 9.30 to 4.30, 6 hours	...	...	...	17 17 0
do do 3 hours ...	...	...	...	12 0 0
5 do do from 9.30 to 4.30, 6 hours	...	...	...	21 0 0
do do 3 hours ...	...	...	...	14 0 0

Students will be supplied with all apparatus.

After some discussion, it was resolved that the recommendation of the committee be adopted, the motion being carried unanimously.

THE ODONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Odontological Society was held on the 5th July, for the discussion of Dr. Rose's Dental Bill; Mr. Cumming (president of the society) in the chair. The hon. secretary (Mr. Thomson) read two letters from Dr. Rose, and reported the result of an interview with him. It was unanimously agreed to support the bill in so far as its provisions were in accord with the British Dental Act, and to concede to chemists now practicing dentistry the same rights as they enjoy at present. The secretary was instructed to send to Dr. Rose the amendments and alterations agreed upon.

The Month.

MR. JOSEPH BOSISTO, M.P., was included among the guests at the Prince of Wales' dinner, held at Marlborough House, in honour of the Queen's birthday.

WE note from our English files that Mr. Joseph Bosisto, M.P., has acceded to a request that he would deliver a lecture at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition. Mr. Bosisto selects for his subject "Australian Vegetation," and the lecture is to be given during the summer.

A RULE nisi has been granted by Mr. Justice Kerferd calling on the Pharmacy Board of Victoria to show cause why a *mandamus* should not be issued to compel the Board to register one Geo. Augustus Dimock as a pharmaceutical chemist. The writ has been made returnable on the 23rd July, before the full court, and Mr. Isaacs has been retained to conduct the case on behalf of the Board.

THE many friends of Mr. John Holdsworth, of Sandhurst, will be glad to hear of his safe arrival in London. A correspondent, writing under date of 4th June, states that he met our genial friend, who was in excellent health, and, if anything, a trifle stouter than when he last saw him in Melbourne. Mr. Holdsworth was to leave London on the 5th June on a visit to his native town, where we may be assured he will meet with a hearty welcome.

IT must be exceedingly gratifying to Victorian pharmacists to hear of the very cordial reception accorded to our friends who are at present in London, and the more than friendly relations that exist between the representatives of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia and the parent society in Great Britain. The princely manner in which they have been entertained will greatly enhance that kindly feeling which has always existed between the two bodies.

THE second term of the session 1886 at the College of Pharmacy commenced on the 29th ult., under the directorship of Mr. A. H. Jackson, B.Sc., F.C.S. The whole of the classes at the college are now under the direction of this gentleman, and the hours of attendance of students have been altered, the lectures commencing at 9.30 a.m. for pharmaceutical students; at 11 a.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays for medical students. In the chemical section pupils can now join at any time and for any period for practical work, while the laboratories are open every day except Saturdays.

MR. WILLIAM BOWEN, the president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, and a member of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, arrived in London *via* America on the 1st June. We learn that the day after his arrival Mr. Bowen paid a visit, in company with Mr. H. Rocke, to Bloomsbury-square, where he was received with great kindness. In the afternoon he visited the meet of the four-in-hand club at Hyde Park, and in the evening was entertained at the Café Royal, Regent-street, where the President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain made him the guest of the evening. In response to the toast of his health Mr. Bowen made a lengthy speech. It is somewhat amusing to read a notice of Mr. Bowen's arrival in London in an English trade journal, where he is described as president of the pharmaceutical society of *his colony*, the word "Australasia" evidently sticking in our contemporary's gizzard. Mr. Bowen was to be present at the examination to be held at Bloomsbury-square early in June, with a view of comparing the examinations in England with those in operation in Victoria, and as he is one of the examiners under the Pharmacy Act of Victoria, he will naturally take a great interest in this subject. We shall, no doubt, have more to say of Mr. Bowen's opinions in our next issue, and in the meantime he is fairly into the gaieties and hospitalities at present showered on colonial visitors.

New South Wales.

THE annual meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of this colony, held last month in the room in Phillip-street, will long be remembered by those who attended this gathering. The room was crowded to excess, and many persons had to be content with standing room in the passage. Either such a large meeting was not expected by the Council, or they are to be blamed for not having provided a larger hall for the holding of the same, and we hope, for the honour of the society, that some attempt will be made before the next annual meeting to provide additional accommodation, such, for instance, as is to be found in connection with the Royal Society and similar institutions in our city.

Nor is the accommodation the only thing that was remarked at this gathering. The order maintained was execrable, and was principally conspicuous by its absence, to the great detriment of the order of business. And the ebullition of feeling displayed by some was provoked by the confession of some member of the council confessing to the meeting that he, in company with others, had gone round to members of the society soliciting their candidature for office, with a view of splitting the votes. When we consider that so much depends upon the harmonious co-operation of all parties for the common welfare of all, it is to be regretted that so much party feeling has been displayed by gentlemen who should study the welfare of all parties.

The re-election of Mr. J. Mayne was expected from the views set forth in his circular to the members. If Mr. Mayne's wishes could be fulfilled, and his programme carried out, pharmacists would then have no enemies but themselves, but most of us know that the day has gone by for attempting to stop persons other than druggists from selling proprietary articles in this colony, and, instead of attempting the impossible, it were better to confine our attention to the less impracticable scheme of preventing all unqualified persons from opening in business.

The president's address contained nothing very startling, and was very characteristic of Mr. Larmer, whose moderate views are well known, and who would be better appreciated if he would be guided more by his own convictions and less by the opinions of others. Mr. Larmer is one of the patriarchs of the profession, and as such is widely esteemed and respected, and his re-election will give satisfaction to those in the trade who view with alarm an undue tendency towards an influx of young men to office.

The election of Mr. T. B. Melhuish to the council seems to have been hailed with great satisfaction by the majority present at the annual meeting. Mr. Melhuish has done much to render himself popular by the organising of several pleasant outings among members of the trade, and from the vigour and enthusiasm with which he enters into all trade movements. Mr. Melhuish has had the advantage of an extensive continental experience, and is a man of advanced views and latest ideas.

Mr. Sadler will be welcomed by all as a clear-headed man of business, who is esteemed for his kindly, genial disposition, and for the well-merited success that has attended his professional career.

The departure of Mr. Pratt, sen., will be regretted by many of his old friends. This gentleman has been connected with the trade in this colony for nearly half a century, and was formerly the agent for the preparations of H. A. Thompson. He has also for many years been identified with many of the social and religious institutions of our city, and, having retired from business, is spending his days in well-merited rest.

The defeated candidates deserve mention. Mr. Carter, of Waverley, was nominated to fill the place of Mr. Parker during the last year, and, consequently, was among the candidates for re-election at the next annual meeting. The power of the president to nominate in the event of a vacancy was wisely exercised in this choice, for it often happens that men of great ability are overlooked in the excitement of a popular contest, which to them is distasteful. This was the case with Mr. Carter; he did not seek office, but was willing to serve if elected. In fact, of the thirteen candidates there was an unusual number of gentlemen who would have been highly desirable councillors, but, unfortunately, there were only four vacancies, consequently many who would have filled the posts with honour failed to obtain the position for which they contested.

Messrs. Abraham, Kebblewhite and Brothwood are to be complimented upon their praiseworthy efforts to serve the society, and when there are so many prominent men willing to serve as councillors, it is well to consider the advisability of creating more seats, in order to have the benefit of the experience and services of more of the defeated gentlemen.

The institution of lectures for students, and the preparation of apparatus for practical work at the examinations, is a step in the right direction, and it is to be hoped that systematic study will be insisted on, and that the candidates will be called upon to show skill in manipulation, as well as to prove that they are blessed with a retentive memory. On more than one occasion a compulsory curriculum has been hinted at, but this is deemed to be somewhat premature, and the trade is not prepared to submit to such an ordeal.

Business has been very quiet and money scarce during the past month, but the effect of the general rain, and advance in the price of wool, may be expected to shortly make itself agreeably felt.

At a meeting of the Chemists and Druggists' Association of New South Wales, held on the 2nd ult., it was announced that the register had benefited to the extent of twenty-one new members since the meeting reported in our last issue, so that the Association would seem in a fair way to prosper.

A preliminary meeting of the members of the Royal Society was held on 22nd ult., *apropos* of the proposed resuscitation of the Sanitary Section. This project has been heartily applauded in the Sydney Press, and it was very gratifying to find that a representative, if not a large, audience had accepted the committee's invitation to consider the matter. The meeting, which was presided over by Sir A. Roberts, was characterised by unanimity and earnestness, and an influential committee was appointed to prepare rules, &c., for the direction of the Section. As has been pointed out, sanitation is one of the most important studies in a new country, and it would be difficult for the Society to find a field of enquiry to which attention could be more profitably directed.

At the subsequent general meeting of the Society, held on 7th inst., the establishment of the Sanitary Section was formally announced. The literary contributions presented at the meeting were:—"Further Additions to the Census of the Genera of Plants hitherto known as indigenous to Australia," by Baron Von Müller, and "Notes on Improvements in the Construction of Reflecting Telescopes," by Dr. F. B. Kyngdon.

At the North Shore Pioneer Industrial Exhibition we saw an interesting exhibit from the Patent Asphaltum Company, where the various stages of progress from the crude article to the asphaltum candle is shown.

At a general meeting of the New South Wales branch of the British Medical Association, held on the 2nd inst., the discussion of the subject, "The Abuses of Narcotics," drew forth some remarks interesting to pharmacists. Said Dr. Clubbe:—"One of the questions to be considered in relation to the abuse of narcotics is, Where do the public get the drugs? The fact is that they get the preparations direct from the chemists. Well, the chemists ought not to continue to supply customers with the drugs when they found that the persons who applied for them repeatedly and regularly sought to obtain them in rather large quantities. When it became apparent to the chemists that their customers were addicted to using large quantities of the preparations of morphia and opium they should cease to comply with the demand made. He thought that this branch of the Medical Association should take some action in the matter." And Dr. Power instanced a case in which a patient "continued to take a medicine, which contained a narcotic, nine months after it had been prescribed. It had

been intended that that medicine should have been taken a few times only; but it was found that the prescription had been dispensed nine months after date. Something should be done to prevent chemists dispensing prescriptions of certain classes more than once. Possibly this result might be effected by an endorsement made upon prescriptions."

Mr. W. J. Cullen, for some time past chief clerk in the goods shed at the Albury railway station, died on 9th inst. from the effects of an overdose of morphia. A coronial enquiry resulted in the return of a verdict of accidental death.

Mr. Samuel Hy. Hughes, son of the late Mr. S. Emery Hughes, has passed his first examination at the Royal College of Surgeons, and is also reported to have won a "dressership." Mr. Hughes is an Australian, and has thus distinguished himself at the comparatively early age of 22 years.

Mr. Berndt unbosoms himself in a letter to a Sydney paper:—"Having occasion to obtain some *natron bicarbonicum* on Sunday night last, I was informed by no less than four of our leading chemists in George-street—first, that it was never used in dispensing, and there was no call for it; second, that it was not in the British Pharmacopoeia; third, that he had never heard of it; fourth, did not keep it in stock. At last, on going into another shop, I discovered at once that this mysterious compound was nothing but the common or garden bicarbonate of soda, which I have a faint idea is very largely used of all these intelligent dispensers, who were, however, unacquainted with it under its scientific name. Now, sir, I maintain that, when four of the would-be leading chemists in the leading city of Australia are so ignorant of the Latin name of one of the commonest things in their shop, there must be something essentially rotten in the state of Denmark."

An inquest on the body of a young girl named Emily Matthews, who died from the effects of a dose of carbolic acid, was recently held at Marrickville. The deceased was 21 years of age, and had been in the domestic service of Mr. W. O. Skarratt, of the township named. The deceased had left two letters bidding farewell to her friends, and asking them not to grieve for her, but no evidence was adduced in explanation of the supposed suicide. The jury found that death had resulted from carbolic acid, and that the same had been self-administered.

The president of the New South Wales branch of the British Medical Association thus referred to cocaine in his inaugural address:—"Cocaine is a yellowish white crystalline bitter alkaloid, obtained from the leaves of the *Erythroxylon coca*, a shrub growing on the mountains of Bolivia and Peru. The leaves have been used for some time by the native Indians and others to appease hunger and thirst; from 2 to 8 drachms being chewed with wood ashes or lime, this quantity sufficing for a day. Travellers are supposed to have ascended mountains with little or no fatigue whilst under its influence. Athletes experience a feeling of invigoration, wholly, or in a great part, resisting fatigue. But it is not so much for its internal use that it is so highly prized as for its local anaesthetic effect. Small but painful operations, which, at one time, could not be performed without subjecting the patient to the risk of chloroform, are now done with extra facility. In operations on the eye its value is especially great, the patient being able to assist by moving his eyeball in any direction required by the operator. In operations on the throat, in dentistry, and in other ways, this new drug is found to be most useful."

An inquest was held at the Sydney Morgue on 28th ult. touching the death of Jno. Hy. Anthony Fitzgerald, whose body was found in a right-of-way off Little Oxford-street on the previous Saturday. The deceased was 32 years of age, and had been a medical man, practicing at Allandale, Victoria. It appeared that he had been of intemperate habits, and the medical evidence

showed that death had resulted from compression of the brain, the result of fracture of the skull. There was nothing to show how the injuries had been inflicted.

From Urana we learn that an epidemic of a very alarming nature has broken out among the horses on Coonong Station. At the beginning of the month six very valuable animals had succumbed, and several others were in a dying condition. The Inspector of Stock and other experienced persons are ignorant of the nature of the disease, which had not been previously known in the district. The first symptoms are manifested in the protrusion of the tongue; the lower jaw then becomes paralysed, and death ensues within a few hours. The horses had been fed on ensilage; but two dogs were also attacked, one of whom died. A *post mortem* examination showed the lungs to be greatly extended, and heavily charged with thick, black blood. The tongue was also greatly swollen, to such an extent as to prohibit the poor beasts from swallowing. His Excellency the Governor, immediately on learning the news of the epidemic, promptly wired his sympathy, and at the same time sent his own veterinary surgeon, Mr. Day, to render assistance. The Government Veterinarian, Mr. Stanley, was promptly despatched to thoroughly investigate the matter; and he reports that he infers that the horses are suffering from a virulent fever, which may be due to local causes. He advised it being treated as infectious, and the movements of horses in the vicinity limited. He also advised the use of ensilage to be discontinued until its freedom from deleterious properties was ascertained. The symptoms of the disease, as given by Dr. Anderson, of Urana, are that it sets in insidiously. The horse refuses his feed, and in a few hours the tongue protrudes from the mouth. The animal is dull, but not suffering pain. In about twelve hours great muscular weakness comes on, with quivering; then some signs of pain about the body, slight running at the nostrils, shallow breathing, speedy exhaustion, when death ensues.

Mr. P. J. Edmunds lectured to an appreciative audience, in connection with the Board of Technical Education, on the 17th ult., on "The History of Chemistry." Mr. Edmunds traced the history of chemistry in such a way as to thoroughly interest his hearers, illustrating his remarks with explanatory experiments.

The Board of Technical Education's series of lectures also included an entertaining account of "Gunpowder," by the same speaker, delivered on the 10th ult., the lecture being associated with practical experiments.

Then came a lecture on "Water in Relation to Dyeing," given by Mr. Hugh Pollock, B.A., LL.B. This was a very valuable discourse, and was attentively followed by a large audience. Mr. Pollock also lectured on the 18th ult. on "Dyeing and Dye Wares," and no less successfully than on the previous occasion.

Miss Costello next contributed an address on "Nursing," and Mr. Pollock then resumed the running with a lecture on "Indigo."

Messrs. Murray and Graham, of Petersham, Leichardt, Sydney, have taken over the old-established business lately carried on by Mr. R. H. Hewitt, in Parramatta-road, Petersham. Messrs. M. and G. have had considerable experience in London, Glasgow, and other cities in Great Britain and in the colonies.

A sad accident occurred at Walgett on the 20th June. Dr. Francis Octavius Hodson, a doctor in the local hospital and a prominent local resident, was entertaining some friends at his house, and, as they were about departing, he fixed the chamber-check of a revolver, and thinking it safe, pointed it at his ear. It thereupon went off, and the bullet lodged in his head. Death ensued shortly afterwards. The deceased was 27 years of age, and a native of Herefordshire. At the inquest a verdict of accidental death through the careless use of firearms was returned.

In moving the second reading of the Medical Practitioners Bill, in the Assembly, on 4th June, Dr. Tarrant gave a brief synopsis of the measure, which may not be without interest to readers of the *Journal of Pharmacy*. A similar Act, he said, existed in all the other British colonies, which might be taken as a proof that it was required here. The bill was divided into three parts, the first relating to a medical council, the second with the registration of legally qualified medical practitioners and qualifications, and the third with the registration of persons practising without qualification. The council was to consist of nine members, three to be appointed by the Government, three by the University, and three by the members of the medical fraternity. Section 14 dealt with the registration of legally qualified medical practitioners, and the removal of their names from the register for misconduct. At present there was provision for registering their names, but not for removing them. Clause 16 was for the registration of additional qualifications. Clause 18 explained who were entitled to registration. Clause 19 provided for the registration of unqualified practitioners. He said there were unqualified men practising in the colony who came here before they had completed their examinations, and prior to the time when they could have completed them in the colony, and they deserved some consideration. The clause provided that if they had been practising for five years their names should be placed on a separate folio on the register, and they should enjoy all the privileges of legally qualified medical men. They would, however, be obliged to pass a very simple examination, showing that they were acquainted with the structure of the human body, and the functions of its various parts; that they were competent to treat accidents and illness, and understood the mode of administering dangerous drugs. Section 21 of the bill provided that no person should be excluded from registration under the bill on account of any particular theory he might possess as to the treatment of disease. Clauses 26 and 27 referred to the penalties to which persons would be subjected for forging or fraudulently obtaining certificates, or for using medical titles to which they had no pretensions whatever. He intended to propose an amendment to Clause 30 of the Bill—"Nothing in the Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to prejudice or in any way affect the lawful occupation, trade, or business of chemists and druggists, so far as the same extend to selling, compounding, or dispensing medicines"—which would then read as follows:—"Nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to prejudice or in any way affect members of the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales, who are registered by the Board of Pharmacy at the time of the passing of this Act, or who shall hereafter be also registered." He would like to point out that there was no clause in the Bill to prevent any man from practising the medical profession, and from receiving an honorarium for his services. The Bill simply provided that unregistered medical men should not assume titles which they had no right to assume. It would also prevent them from giving evidence as skilled witnesses in courts of law, and from suing for services rendered. From the foregoing it will be seen that pharmacists have now every reason to wish that the measure may be speedily passed into law.

Mr. Edwin Quayle delivered the inaugural lecture of a first course on Pharmacy, Materia Medica, and Chemistry, at the Pharmaceutical Society's rooms, on 24th June. Mr. Larmer, the president, was in the chair, and there was a very good attendance of members of the council, students, and friends, who listened with great attention to a very interesting and instructive address. In his introductory remarks the lecturer referred to the work being done by the Society in the way of pharmaceutical education, and regretted that the very complete library

possessed by the Society was not made greater use of. On application to the secretary any of the books contained in the library could be obtained; and, as many of them were very expensive works, and might not otherwise be within the reach of students, it struck him as being rather an unfavourable sign that the applications for books were so few. He trusted, however, that this reproach might soon be removed, and that the rising generation of pharmacists would not content themselves with the bare amount of study necessary to enable them to pass their examinations, but would show themselves in every way worthy of the name of students. A *materia medica museum* was now in course of formation, and would, when completed, as he trusted it would be in the course of next month, be at least as perfect as any in the colonies. A sum of money had also been voted by the council towards the formation of a pharmaceutical laboratory, and the chief requisites had already been purchased, so that they might look forward at a very early date to being able to receive practical instruction in pharmacy and chemistry. Mr. Quayle added that he saw no reason why, with such an extensive and unexplored field as the flora of these colonies afforded, they should not produce worthy successors to Herepath, Squire, and other men distinguished in the domain of pharmacy and *materia medica*. Mr. Quayle gave his second lecture on the following Thursday evening, and the third on 7th inst. The attendance of students, members of the Society, and visitors was large upon each occasion. Mr. Quayle's advocacy of the necessity for practical instruction in pharmacy and pharmaceutical processes appeared to meet with the cordial approval of his hearers, and the lecturer was accorded hearty votes of thanks at the conclusion of each address.

A magisterial inquiry was held at Adamstown recently in connection with the sudden death of a young girl named Mary Ann Carnley. It appears that she returned from the Sunday-school, apparently in good health and spirits, and, going to her room, called her two sisters, and said, "Good-bye, Martha and Harriet, I'm going to heaven." She then asked to have her boots taken off, and this was hardly done before she gave a loud scream, and expired. Medical aid was sent for, but on arrival it was found that life was extinct. An empty bottle of pain-killer was found in the room. Dr. J. B. Nash, acting-coroner, after hearing the evidence of the mother and sister of the deceased, and that of Dr. Hedley, who made a *post-mortem* examination, came to the conclusion that deceased had died from the effects of some muriatic poison, which had probably been administered by herself.

Intelligence has been received in Sydney of the death of Henry Jeanneret, M.D., at his residence, Cheltenham, England. Dr. Jeanneret was one of the early colonists, having arrived in 1828 in Sydney, where he for some years practised his profession; but he afterwards entered the service of the Crown, and was appointed to various Tasmanian penal settlements, and lastly to the command of the civil, military, and aboriginal establishments on Flinders Island, where he remained until the dissolution of the settlement in 1849, when he returned to England.

Dr. Lowes, who was for eighteen months one of the resident medical officers of the Sydney Hospital, which position he was compelled to resign about two months ago on account of failing health, died in that institution on 20th June, greatly regretted by everyone with whom his position had brought him in contact.

A strangely-deformed infant has been born alive in Newcastle. Dr. Treloar says that it has a foot on the left arm, the right arm being contracted and reflected over the shoulder, and the hand having two fingers deformed. The legs are shaped naturally, but one foot has eight toes, which are webbed together, and the other foot has five webbed toes.

South Australia.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ON Tuesday, the 6th July, the Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia held its monthly meeting at the Society's Room, King William-street. There was a good attendance of members, the president (Mr. Harrison) being in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been adopted, and an application for membership referred to the next meeting, the matter of the Pharmaceutical Conference in Melbourne was again discussed, and it was resolved that an expression of concurrence with the objects of the conference should be made. Accordingly Mr. Sowter moved, and Mr. Parker seconded—"That this Society approves of, and concurs with, the objects of the proposed Pharmaceutical Conference."

Mr. Parker, in seconding the motion, spoke of the advanced and flourishing condition of the Pharmaceutical Society in Victoria, and mentioned the kindly help that had been rendered by that body to the South Australian Society.

Mr. White, in supporting it, said that, of course, all were agreed as to the advisability of uniformity in pharmaceutical legislation, education, &c., and that, therefore, the objects of the Melbourne Conference commended themselves to all.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The president then called attention to the approaching preliminary examination, and mentioned Mr. Hopkins, a gentleman of considerable scholastic attainments, as a suitable examiner, and after a short discussion it was proposed by Mr. Sowter, and seconded by Mr. Main—"That Mr. Hopkins be appointed examiner for the preliminary examination to be held on 15th July." Carried.

Messrs. Porter and Sowter having declined appointment on the sub-committee nominated at the last meeting, Mr. Wood, of Rundle-street, was nominated to fill the vacancy.

Some other business of an unimportant character closed the meeting.

At a committee meeting of the Society a valuable collection of dried plants, which had been presented to the Society by Mr. Fryer, called forth many remarks appreciative of the kindness of the giver and the worth of the gift, the president and other members of the committee speaking of the orderly arrangement and good state of preservation of the various specimens. Mr. Fryer has now left for Melbourne, and South Australian pharmacy has sustained a loss by his departure, as he is a gentleman of high standing both as a pharmacist and chemist.

An interesting expedition of Government officials and gentlemen experts to the Ninety-mile Desert, with the object of ascertaining what useful trees and plants could be grown there, took place on 23rd and 24th June. The result of the inspection of the country was that possibly olives, vines, wattles, pines, carobs, mangold, cloves, &c., could be grown in various parts, and in some places even fruit trees and vegetables. One important suggestion, the report states, was made by Mr. William Murray, namely, that nearly the whole of the country gone over is suitable for flower-farming—that is, for the production of lavender, mint, sage, rosemary, thyme, savory, marjoram, basil, and such plants, from which essential oils could be distilled. Such plants, he thinks, would not be attacked by rabbits or other vermin. The cultivation of these plants would, no doubt, prove eventually a valuable industry, and anyone who initiates such a work will greatly benefit the colony. Surely, with a climate so suitable, the time must come when Australia will compete with European countries in the production of essential and other oils, and possibly drugs. The olive grows well here, the castor tree profusely, and almonds seem to flourish

wherever sown, while everyone knows in what rich abundance flowers can be obtained. Let us hope that these sources of wealth will be utilised speedily, and thus another important industry be added to those already prosperous in the colonies.

At the annual meeting of members of the South Australian branch of the Geographical Society of South Australia, on 28th June, Mr. J. C. Wilkinson read a paper on "Central Australia" prepared by Mr. Charles Winnecke, in which the writer gave some valuable information as to the vegetation of the desert, to which he stated he had, at the earnest request of Baron Von Müeller, paid special attention. The following paragraph will be of special interest to readers of the *Journal of Pharmacy* :—"On a hurried journey such as must necessarily be made through this country many interesting specimens are overlooked. I have, however, succeeded recently in securing several entirely new plants, and feel certain that many more exist in these parts. The prevailing vegetation is very stunted, and consists of several varieties of acacia, known by the local names of mulga, wattle gidea, myall, &c., &c., and desert eucalyptii, of which there appears to be several species, also spinifex; the latter, in fact, predominates almost everywhere, growing alike and in equal abundance on the red sand ridges as well as on the most barren and rocky ranges. It is similar in appearance to the porcupine grass of South Australia. In one, and only one spot, the famous Pituri plant is found. This locality is situated in latitude 24° on the eastern extremity of the previously-mentioned desert. I have only seen this plant in this one particular stretch of country, extending about 30 miles in length. It appears to grow only on the extreme tops of the sand ridges, and hitherto all attempts at transplanting have resulted in failures. I am not aware that this plant exists in any other part of Australia. Its properties, however, are well known to all the natives of Central Australia, and to some tribes many hundreds of miles from where this peculiar plant appears to be indigenous, and is eagerly sought for by these people, who subject it to a peculiar treatment—first, by steaming, then masticating it, and finally mixing it with certain ashes produce a compound which apparently affects them in a similar manner to what opium would do—completely stupefying and rendering them sometimes for days insensible to pain. I have secured a small quantity of the sun dried leaves and stems of this plant, and shall be glad to hand the same over to any gentleman who may wish to test its properties scientifically."

A deputation representing the qualified members of the medical profession in the colony waited on the Attorney-General (Hon. J. W. Downer) on Friday morning, 25th June, regarding the status of unqualified practitioners. Dr. E. C. Stirling, M.P., introduced the deputation, which, he explained, was a thoroughly representative one, and advocated the views held by the whole medical profession. What the deputation asked was that unqualified practitioners should not be allowed to prefix the title of "Doctor" to their name, to which those on the roll were legally entitled. They wished, in fact, to compel unqualified men when they practised to make it known to the public that they held no diploma. Dr. J. C. Verco, president of the Medical Association, referred to the views that had been propounded by previous deputations on the subject, and expressed his regret that their requests had not been complied with. They particularly wished for legal recognition of the medical profession; that certificates of death should be given where practicable by registered practitioners, and where this was not possible that a magistrate should do so; that Government appointments should be confined to qualified men; and that when unqualified men practised they should be compelled to

notify the fact that they held no diploma. Dr. Hayward, the ex-president of the Medical Association, said this was the only colony in which they had no Medical Act to regulate the practice. He wished the Association to have the power, in addition to other things, to strike off the roll any member who conducted himself in a manner calculated to bring the profession into disrepute. The power to recall a diploma was held by the issuers, but not by the local authorities, who should have the same right. Several other members of the deputation having spoken, the Attorney-General, in reply, said he agreed with the deputation that there should be a Medical Bill, and one would be introduced. He would not bind himself to the precise lines that had been suggested, although he agreed that unqualified men should not be allowed to practise as the holders of medical diplomas when they had no such qualification.

The Medical School of the University has assumed possession of its new premises at the north-east corner of the University buildings. The cost is stated at £1700, and a further expenditure of £375 is to be incurred in fitting up the lecture theatre.

The asbestos discovery, near Hawker, has been sold to a syndicate of Adelaide and Melbourne capitalists, who purpose manufacturing and exporting the asbestos.

Dr. Wyatt, chairman of the Adelaide Hospital Board, died on Friday, 11th June, aged 82. He arrived in the colony in 1837. He leaves about £100,000 worth of property, which is principally bequeathed to the charities of the city. Mrs. Wyatt survives him.

Mrs. Thompson, wife of Dr. Thompson, has been committed for trial on a charge of forging a telegram.

Dr. Schomburgk, the curator of the botanic gardens, is dangerously ill from debility, following a severe attack of gout.

New Zealand.

GRATIFYING news reaches us from the old country, where "our boys" have proved themselves as successful in the intellectual as in the physical arena. We learn that at the close of the winter session of the University of Edinburgh the following medical students have distinguished themselves:—Natural History—Senior section, H. M. Inglis, of Timaru, the same gentleman also taking first class honours in chemistry. Anatomy—Students of the second year, first class honours, L. E. Barnett, Wellington, and John Somerville, Dunedin; second class honours, W. J. Cattan; students of the first year, first class honours, H. M. Inglis; second class honours, G. H. Monroe. A special certificate of proficiency in practical work was also awarded to H. M. Inglis. Surgery—Seniors, first class honours, Joseph Jeffcoat (Otago), F. Truby King, P. A. Lindsay; juniors, second-class honours, T. Burns. Materia Medica—First class honours, L. Edward Barnett and John Somerville; second class honours, Alfred H. Williams. Institutes of Medicine—Senior division, second class honours, A. H. Williams; Junior division, J. Somerville and L. E. Barnett. Practice of Physic—Senior division, first class honours, F. Truby King and Frederick H. Jeffcoat; junior division, first class honours, W. A. Fleming, Otago; second class honours, Lewis A. Hawkes. Midwifery—Junior division, second class honours, L. A. Hawkes. General Pathology—Junior division, first class honours, John Somerville and L. E. Barnett; second class honours, Alfred H. Williams. F. Truby King (Taranaki) and F. H. Jeffcoat are both considered as having excellent chances of being placed Eccles-man for the year, the highest distinction the school can give.

At Auckland recently a plumber, named Frederick Nasmyth, after partaking of a hearty dinner, took, by way of dessert, a piece of bread, upon which he had spread some "Rough on Rats." An alarm having been raised, the foolish man—he had been on the "spree" for several days previously—was removed to the hospital, and remedial measures successfully adopted.

You will have received long ere this full accounts of the terrible volcanic eruptions in the Lake district. I may mention, however, that two professors of the Auckland University, who made an analysis of the volcanic dust, state that a small proportion is soluble, and that it is very valuable as manure. Other portions show the presence of quartz, pumice, and other volcanic minerals.

We note that 500 chinchora trees, from one to two feet in height, are available for distribution from the Domain Gardens, an opportunity being thus offered for testing the suitability of the climate to the cultivation of this plant, concerning which there was some controversy a few years ago.

Queensland.

THE results of the first examination conducted by the new Pharmacy Board of Queensland have just been made known. Twenty-five candidates entered their names for examination, of whom twenty presented themselves. The subjects for examination were—(1) Practical Dispensing, (2) Pharmacy, (3) Materia Medica, (4) Botany, (5) Latin, and (6) Translations and Criticisms of Autograph Prescriptions. The examination in each subject was conducted both in writing and orally. Out of twenty candidates who presented themselves for examination only three succeeded in passing, at the head of whom stands the name of Mr. John Pears Potts. The southern papers, commenting upon the high standard required by the new board for the candidates to pass, remark, "However severely this may press upon the candidates in preparing for the examination, the general public will reap the benefit of having their prescriptions prepared by men who thoroughly understand their profession. There is certainly no class of men who ought to know their business more thoroughly than dispensing chemists, in whose hands the issues of life and death are daily placed; therefore we consider this era in Queensland pharmacy ought to be hailed by the general public with great satisfaction."

The three candidates who passed the first examination of the Queensland Pharmacy Board in June were Messrs. Connellan (Gatton), Simmonds (Brisbane), and J. P. Potts (Brisbane), the latter formerly an apprentice of Mr. H. W. Potts, chemist, now of Melbourne.

Mr. J. P. Potts has purchased the chemist's business of Dr. Cripps in Rockhampton, through Messrs. Prosser and Co., of Sydney.

In a letter to the *Queenslander*, Mr. C. Twisden-Bedford gives an interesting account of the manner in which the famous pituri plant (*Duboisia Hopwoodii*) is prepared for consumption by the aborigines of the North Gregory district. Mr. Bedford writes:—"They first place a portion in their mouths and chew it into a pulp; this is spat out on to a piece of bark, and some of the whitewood leaves are burnt and added thereto; then worked up with the fingers to the consistency of putty. It now undergoes a second process of chewing, spitting out, and more ashes added to it. After this has been done repeatedly it is ready for use, and it is a comical sight to see half-a-dozen nude niggers, squatted on their hams, gravely passing this, no doubt, delicious morsel (to them) from one to the other, each chewing it in turn until the effects begin to appear in their staring eyes and a stupid look. I can only compare it to the appearance of an habitual opium consumer after indulging in his favourite drug. The effect on some is

stupefaction; others again begin their corroboree; and the different effects on different aborigines are just as apparent as the very different effects alcoholic liquors have on others of the *genus homo*. On completion of the chewing and passing round business it generally finds its way back to the original preparer, who disposes of it by sticking it behind his ear for future consumption. The pitcherie is an extensive article of trade among the blacks, the happy possessors being able to obtain in exchange for it any article dear to the aboriginal heart from their less fortunate black brethren, and I am informed on good authority that it finds its way to the tribes on the Diamantina on the one side and to the Gregory River natives on the other side of the circumscribed area wherein it is obtained."

We regret to announce that Mr. Frank Taylor, the registrar of the Queensland Pharmacy Board, is laid up with typhoid fever, evidently aggravated by the worry and trouble of the late examinations.

At Maryborough recently a boy named Perry, who had been suffering from lock-jaw, was reported on 18th June to have obtained great relief, and, in fact, to be recovering, by means of injected morphia. The results proved to be only temporary, however, for the little sufferer died on 24th June in fearful agony.

The Pharmacy Board have made the following regulation:—"The Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales, and the Pharmacy Boards of the colonies of New Zealand and Victoria, will respectively be provisionally recognised by the Pharmacy Board of Queensland as Boards of Pharmacy under the Act until the 1st day of May, 1887, so that persons holding certificates from those authorities may be provisionally registered in Queensland; but such registration will not have effect after that date unless other regulations are made in the meantime."

Mr. Taylor (Berkley, Taylor and Co.) has returned from the north. He gives but a poor account of the condition of business all along the coast.

We republish from the *Brisbane Courier*, of the 26th June, the following letter:—

PHARMACY BOARD EXAMINATIONS.

Sir,—It is, I think, hardly proper that such special subjects as the above examinations should be discussed in the public papers, but it seems to be unavoidable.

The letter of "An Unsuccessful Candidate" in a late issue of the *Courier*, and the statements of some other unsuccessful ones, would seem to indicate that the examination was exceptionally difficult, and the *viva voce* questions unduly severe. In justice to myself and other examiners I cannot let this pass without protest. The writer of the letter seems to feel it a grievance that the ground covered was so extensive, saying that he asked one of the examiners and was told that the examination would be solely on the *Pharmacopœia*. I feel sure he is mistaken about any examiner telling him so. Possibly some member of the board might have done this; that I do not know.

The fact is that it does not rest with us to examine in whatever we choose. The Pharmacy Act distinctly states that we shall examine in botany, chemistry, *materia medica*, pharmacy, and practical dispensing. It seems to have been an especial grievance that there should have been an examination in botany, but we were obliged to do so, and, as regards the questions in that subject, I can only say that anyone who had read even the most elementary shilling book on botany would have been enabled to pass easily. Indeed, the questions were

such that almost any well-read man would have known something about them. As far as I can see, the only question to which any objection could be raised was, what are phyllodes? But, as they are so especially Australian, I thought it appropriate. It must be remembered that any subject is difficult to one who knows nothing about it, and so it was in this instance. Quite a quarter of the candidates, and I believe many more, did not know that the potato was a tuber, or that an onion was a bulb, or what were the names of the different parts of a flower, which was the calyx or the corolla, the petals or stamens. To men like this it would be impossible to set any paper in botany that they could answer. Only one man knew what a "corm" was, although one corm at least is largely used in medicine, and is so named in the Pharmacopoeia. In pharmacy, I am told that quite a number of men did not know tincture of opium (laudanum) or tincture of rhubarb when they saw it. The system of marking we adopted was to give 50 marks for each paper, and 50 for the *viva voce*, making 100 marks in each subject, and it was my suggestion that anyone who got 25 marks in botany and in chemistry should pass in those subjects. It is very significant that only one failed in botany and chemistry only; all the others failed in some of the other subjects as well. The *viva voce* questions were as simple as I could make them. I tried to find out what the candidates knew; not to set difficult or catch questions. Two of the examiners, Mr. Field and myself, have passed the same examinations at home, and we were both asked much more difficult questions than we put to the candidates. Moreover, the same examinations in the other colonies are much more difficult also, as anyone may see if they will compare them.—I am, sir, &c.,

Brisbane.

J. CLEMENT ELLISON, M.B., London.

Tasmania.

At a sitting of the Medical Court on the 15th June, Messrs. William Wright and W. G. Cox appeared for examination as chemists and druggists. Both gentlemen passed, and were complimented on their efficiency. Mr. Wright is connected with the establishment of Messrs. L. Fairthorne and Son, but served his apprenticeship with Messrs. Hatton and Laws, of Launceston. Mr. Cox has been for some time connected with the establishment of Messrs. Hatton and Laws.

At Hobart, on 18th June, a young man named William Dunn visited Mr. Hinsby's pharmacy in Elizabeth-street, and purchased sixpence worth of strychnine, stating that he wanted to destroy some dogs. Returning home, however, he swallowed the poison, and on his friends finding out what he had done, messengers were despatched, one for a medical man and one for the police. Dr. Hardy was quickly on the spot, and did all he could for the unfortunate fellow, but without avail. A constable conveyed him to the hospital, where he died in terrible agony shortly after his admission.

A recent suicide has again called attention to the fact that there is no law in this colony to regulate the sale of poisons.

THE *North China Daily News* states that the French and German Ministers are no longer opposed to the terms of the opium convention entered into last year at London.

THERE is a man named Smith living in one of the small towns in Michigan who claims to be a dentist. A sign over his door, painted by himself, reads:—"Teeth Extracted without Enny [Pain], Laffin Gas Ten (10) cents a Ha Ha!"

ANNUAL DINNER OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

THIS event, which took place on the 18th May, was largely attended, and a special interest attaches to its proceedings for Australian pharmacists in consequence of Mr. Jos. Bosisto, M.P., having taken a leading part in them. The chair was filled by the President of the Society, Mr. Carteighe, and the company was representative of science and learning, and included the following guests :—Mr. Joseph Bosisto, M.P., J.P., President of Commission for Victoria; Mr. J. A. Despeissis, Commissioner for Mauritius; Mr. G. H. Hawtayne, Executive Commissioner for British Guiana; Dr. May, Commissioner of Education for Ontario; Professor Remington, of Philadelphia; Professor Wm. Saunders, of London, Ontario; Mr. F. A. Swettenham, Executive Commissioner for Straits Settlements; Mr. F. M. im Thurn, of the British Guiana Commission. After the toasts, "The Queen," "The Houses of Parliament," "The Sheriffs of London and Middlesex," "The Learned Scientific Societies," "The Medical Profession," "The Prosperity of the Pharmaceutical Society," and "The Health of the President," had been proposed and duly honoured, "the President," says the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, "rose to propose 'Our Guests,' and said he was sure that this toast would be received with great enthusiasm. It was his privilege on this occasion to associate with that toast the names of certain colonial guests who were present. Besides distinguished guests at home, they had representatives from Victoria, Mauritius, British Guiana, Canada, the Straits Settlements, and also one from the United States. On behalf of the Pharmaceutical Society he tendered to all these guests a hearty and cordial welcome, and he ventured to express a hope on the part of the members of the Society that if those guests who were associated with pharmacy, medicine, or *materia medica* found anything worth copying that they would do so. He would ask them to bear in mind that Mr. Bosisto, who would be asked to respond for the toast, was not only a pharmacist, but a Commissioner for Victoria, as well as M.P. for Melbourne." . . .

"Mr. Joseph Bosisto, in responding, said he rose under somewhat emotional feeling, having been away from the fatherland close upon forty years. He remembered when the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain was founded, having had the honour of being one of its earliest students. The students in Victoria felt great respect for the grand Institution, and they did not go forth to that land without feeling the deepest respect and reverence, and a further feeling of the duty which they owed to the late Jacob Bell. When they went forth to that country to try to get a living they united together to advance pharmacy, and he need only mention the names of Johnson, Lewis, Blackett, Brind, Holdsworth, Bowen, Francis, and others, who had assisted him in founding the great Pharmaceutical Institution of Australia. They felt they would not have been worthy the name of that great Society, or of the name of their great founder, Jacob Bell, if they did not carry with them a determination to set forth pharmacy in Australia as it had been set forth in England. They felt proud of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, and debtors for the knowledge which they possessed with reference to chemistry, and that it would ill become them if they did not express their deep gratitude for the information and knowledge which they obtained when they were young, so that they could go forth to Australia and set before students there the laws of chemistry and pharmacy with which their own minds had been imbued. If any gentlemen chose to go to Victoria to see the College of Pharmacy, he felt sure they would be proud of its institution, and would feel that they had not come home to eulogise the

Pharmaceutical Society without at the same practising what they had been taught. He might be excused for not saying more, but he did desire, as a thorough Australian, to thank the company for having been permitted to express the feelings of his heart with reference to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. This was the first time for forty years that he had been able to do so, and he knew that it would be the last, as he should shortly return to his duties in Victoria. He heartily thanked them for the way in which the toast had been drunk, and begged to assure the Pharmaceutical Society that its work was recognised in the colonies, and that they were determined to follow in its footsteps in order to bring forward young pharmacists in such a way that they should represent pharmacy there in the same way as the Pharmaceutical Society represented it in England."

Professor Saunders, Ontario, and Professor Remington, Philadelphia, also responded to the toast, with which the proceedings terminated.

A CURIOSITY.

MESSRS. HERON, SQUIRE AND FRANCIS have forwarded for the Museum of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, through Mr. Henry Francis, of Bourke-street, Melbourne, a splendid specimen of gum benzoin, of which the history is given below:—

A REMARKABLE SAMPLE OF GUM BENZOIN.

SIR,—By this mail we have taken the liberty to forward you a sample of gum benzoin, which, it will no doubt interest many of your readers to hear, has been imbedded under sand and sea for nearly two centuries. In the olden times, as you are aware, this was the calling port of most of those richly freighted Dutch East India Company's merchant ships, and there is no doubt whatever that this gum was being carried from the East to the European markets by a vessel belonging to that company, when she became a wreck on the shores of Table Bay. Besides the gum a large quantity of pure copper in bars has lately been recovered by divers, together with china, earthenware, crockeryware, etc.

The lids of two cases in which the gum was packed have been recovered (one is in our possession), and they are not only, like the gum, in a state of perfect preservation, but they bear very plainly upon their surface the marks and numbers painted on in 1691. It seems almost incredible that after a lapse of 195 years, being exposed to the action of sea water during the whole of that time, the wood (cedar) should be quite sound and the letters distinctly legible.

The following is a copy of the marks on the lid referred to, viz.:—

W
No. 143 OVC A. 1691
Cabeff Benzuin.

Netto	300 lbs.
Tarra	61
Bruto	361 lbs.

Here we have the company's mark V.O.C. (Vereenigd Oost (India) Companie), the number of case, year in which it was packed and probably shipped, contents, and weight. Perhaps some of your subscribers will give us information regarding the word "Cabeff."

Having thoroughly exhausted a sample of the gum with S.V.R. we found it left a residue of only 7·7 per cent. of wood, etc., whereas a sample of "elect" benzoin as found in commerce at the present day, similarly treated, yielded no less than 34·9 per cent. woody matter.

We may add that upwards of a ton of the gum has been recovered, and we have shipped the whole to our agents, Messrs. Horner and Sons, Aldgate, by whom it will probably be placed upon the London market.

J. T. POCOCK AND CO.

6 Shortmarket-street, Cape Town, C.G.H.

N.B.—Perhaps you will kindly hand the sample to the curator of the Museum (Pharmaceutical Society) for exhibition.

[It has been suggested that "Cabeff" may possibly refer to the district from which it was obtained.—ED. A.J.P.]

VISIT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN TO THE COLONIAL AND INDIAN EXHIBITION.

IN response to the invitation of Mr. Bosisto, the members of the Council and the officers of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain paid a visit to the Victorian Court of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition on Tuesday, 1st June, when they had the advantage of inspecting, under the guidance of Mr. Bosisto and Mr. Thompson, the secretary to the Victorian Commission, the most interesting and important of the exhibits from the colony. The party was afterwards entertained at luncheon by Mr. Bosisto, who, in proposing the health of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, expressed himself in the warmest terms in regard to the advantages he had derived from having been a student at the school of the society, and the pleasure he had taken in the establishment in Australia of a counterpart of the institution with which his early associations were so pleasantly connected. His services in carrying out the legislative enactments relating to pharmacy and in providing for the scientific education of pharmaceutical students were spoken of by the Hon. Graham Berry, the Agent-General of the colony, as having been most valuable. In fact, remarked Mr. Berry, it may be said that in this respect Mr. Bosisto has done for the colony what Jacob Bell did for Great Britain.

At a meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, held at Bloomsbury-square on the 2nd June, the president, Mr. Carteighe, moved the following resolution:—"That this Council tenders its cordial thanks to Mr. Joseph Bosisto, M.P., President of the Victorian Commission of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, for his kindness in personally showing to the Council and its officers the important and most interesting objects exhibited by the colony of Victoria; and for the hospitality shown by Mr. Bosisto on that occasion. This Council further desires to express its high appreciation of the services rendered to pharmacy and pharmaceutical education by the successful efforts of Mr. Bosisto in obtaining a Pharmacy Act for Victoria."

He said it was a source of great pleasure to him to propose this resolution. Mr. Bosisto had been good enough to invite the Council of the Society and the officers to the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, and to show, with the most pains-taking care, all the interesting and beautiful objects, both of industrial application and of natural history, exhibited by the colony of Victoria. He had further entertained them in the most handsome way at luncheon, bringing to meet them several distinguished guests, notably a learned expert who was interested in the Indian department, Dr. Watte, and also one of his own colleagues in the Parliament of Victoria—the Honourable Graham Berry, now Agent-General of the colony in Great Britain. They had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Berry's opinion of Mr. Bosisto, and he need not remind them that Mr. Bosisto was one

of the student founders of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. He had been able to go to the Antipodes, to realise a competency, to take an active part in legislative work, and to become president of the Commission representing that great colony, in a comparatively small number of years. During that time he had also been able to achieve for pharmacy the great benefit of obtaining a Pharmacy Act for the country of his adoption. Those who heard Mr. Graham Berry would not forget the glowing terms in which he spoke of Mr. Bosisto. He told them that he and Mr. Bosisto had been opposed to each other in politics, but they were, nevertheless, exceedingly good friends; and these two representatives of the two sides in Parliament had actually been able, with others, to agree in regard to pharmaceutical matters in such a way that the Victorian Legislature not only gave the Society a house, but also made the very handsome grant of £1000 for the advance of pharmaceutical education, which it was hoped and believed would be given annually. It was very pleasant to hear the terms in which Mr. Bosisto spoke of the pharmacists of the old country, and the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain in particular; and it was a pleasing duty for him, as president, to be the means of conveying the gratitude of his colleagues to Mr. Bosisto for his kind appreciation of the Society and its work. Of course, he spoke officially, and desired to represent the whole pharmaceutical body in expressing his appreciation of the compliment Mr. Bosisto had paid to the Society in asking its executive to partake of his hospitality.

The vice-president seconded the motion. It had been a great pleasure to him to meet Mr. Bosisto, and to see not only the warm interest he took in pharmacy generally, but also to know that he did so believing he was benefiting human kind. It was very pleasant to observe that the moving power of his life seemed to be a desire for the public good.

Mr. Sehacht briefly supported the motion, which was carried unanimously.

MR. WILLIAM BOWEN, J.P.

It will be of interest to our readers to learn that Mr. William Bowen, J.P., president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, and a member of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, has safely reached London. From a gossipy letter, written in his own pleasant way, we learn that our esteemed friend has found himself on most excellent terms with our American cousins. He says:—"I have crossed from the Pacific to the Atlantic, only witnessing two cases of drunkenness, and have scarcely heard an obscene or other objectionable word during the journey. I have experienced nothing but courtesy and kindness from all classes, and my sojourn among them will ever be recalled with feelings of pride and pleasure. I did not neglect to sound them on every convenient occasion upon that grand idea (which originated with one of their own countrymen), the federation of the English-speaking race; and I can say that in every case I met with a satisfactory response—indeed, on one occasion the question was mooted by one of themselves—and in nearly all cases my views were supported with so much enthusiasm as to flatter the hope that the realisation of the dream in question is far removed from the impossibilities. I have formed a favourable opinion as to the condition of pharmacy throughout the States, although California and some other districts have not the advantages of Pharmacy Acts. However, the chemists are, in a most praiseworthy manner, making every endeavour to promote pharmaceutical education. They have no apprenticeship law, but they make up for this by requiring every student, before presenting himself for the final examination, to give satisfactory evidence of having served with some recognised pharmaceutical chemist for a period of at

least four years." Mr. Bowen records that he attended religious service at the Mormon Tabernacle, Utah, but adds—"I was not converted;" and he speaks in glowing terms concerning the magnificent scenic views which he met with in his progress through the land of the stars and stripes. Mr. Bowen writes in excellent spirits, and concludes with regards and all good wishes to his many friends.

Notes and Abstracts.

MUSTARD, mixed with the white of egg, instead of water, will thoroughly draw without blistering the most delicate skin.

FLUID EXTRACT OF QUEBRACHO.—This is said by H. J. Wegner (*Amer. Journ. of Pharm.*) to be capable of relieving the asthma caused in many persons by handling powdered ipecac.

MENTHOL FOR NEURALGIA.—Professor Bartholow recommends for superficial neuralgia that a 5 to 20 per cent. ethereal solution of menthol be painted over the part.—*Med. and Surg. Rep.*

COCAINE TEST.—Dr. F. Giesel states that the sulphuric acid test for cocaine is not always reliable, and proposes the following test:—If 1 centigram of cocaine hydrochlorate is dissolved in 1 or 2 drops of water, and about 1 c.c. of a 3 per cent. solution of potassium permanganate added, a violet precipitate is produced, at ordinary temperature, containing but a trace of magnesium binoxide, and when boiled, no odour of bitter almonds is perceptible.—*Schweiz. Wochenschrift*, 1886, p. 88.

USE OF CHRYSAROBINE (INTERNAL) IN SKIN DISEASES.—Stocquart, of Brussels, has used chrysarobine internally, in small doses, in a number of cases of eczema and impetigo in children, with remarkable results. He gave from one-fourteenth to six-tenths of a grain in the course of a day. Among the clinical histories given is that of a child, three years old, which had had impetigo for three weeks, affecting chiefly the chin, the arms, and one ear. The treatment was begun on the 25th of August, a quarter of a grain of chrysarobine being given daily. On the 26th the redness and the purulent discharge had disappeared, and the pustules had begun to dry. On the 27th the trouble was at an end. The author attributes the effect to a vaso-constrictor action on the part of the drug.—*Dtsch. Med. Ztg.*

MYRTOL.—Myrtol has only been, hitherto, studied as a curiosity. Dr. Linarix, in his doctrinal thesis, "De l'Emploi du Myrtol," gives a complete account of the properties of this substance. Myrtol is both an antiseptic and a disinfecting agent. By its presence, it prevents the decomposition of fermentative and putrescible organic substances; applied to the skin, it does not produce the slightest irritation, if the epithelium be intact. If there be a slight abrasion, a few drops produce a very trifling burning sensation, which quickly goes off. Myrtol stimulates the digestive faculties; all who use it find their appetite increased. In small doses it acts as a sedative. It is eliminated by the lungs and the kidneys, and has also a powerful balsamic action, but is more easily tolerated than most balsams. Its use is not followed by dyspepsia, nor by any of the other troubles attending the use of balsams in general. Dr. Linarix says that myrtol does not produce the same result at all periods of the affections of the respiratory system; in subacute and chronic catarrhal affections it should be administered when fever has subsided, then the sputa become less abundant, also less purulent. Six capsules daily, each containing fifteen centigrammes of myrtol, form a moderate dose, which should be taken before meals.—*Brit. Med. Jour.*, 10th April, 1886.

Miscellaneous Gleanings.

M. PASTEUR has received from the Emperor of Brazil the Grand Cross of the Imperial Order of the Rose.

THE Würtemberg Government has sent a medical expert to Paris to make a special study of the healing method of M. Pasteur.

THE Pharmaceutical Society of St. Petersburg numbers, at present, 363 members, of whom 85 are honorary, 49 corresponding, and 229 ordinary members.

M. VOGEL states in *Bierdermann's Central Blatt* the very remarkable fact, in relation to the chemical action of the solar rays, that chinchona trees growing in hothouses in Europe develop no quinine in their bark.

A MAD donkey at Mentone has provided M. Pasteur with two patients. The animal, which had itself been bitten by a mad dog, attacked its owner and a veterinary surgeon who came to treat it, inflicting severe bites on them both; and they both started immediately for Paris, bringing with them the brains of the ass which had done the mischief.

IN the last number of the *Revue des Deux Mondes* there is an article on alcohol by M. Jules Rochard, who presents the following budget as representing the direct and indirect taxation which France imposes on itself in the course of a year in alcohol:—Price of alcohol consumed, £3,639,272; value of days' work lost, £38,510,840; cost of treatment, £2,833,680; cost of lunacy, £92,852; loss by suicides, £126,800; cost of criminals, £355,780. Total, £45,559,224.

A CURIOUS chemical phenomenon was, according to a science contemporary, lately disclosed in Paris. It appears that a celebrated Parisian belle, who had acquired the habit of whitewashing herself, so to speak, from the soles of her feet to the roots of her hair, with chemically-prepared cosmetics, one day took a medicated bath, and, on emerging from it, she was horrified to find herself as black as an Ethiopian. The transformation was complete: not a vestige of the "supreme Caucasian race" was left. Her physician was sent for in alarm and haste. On his arrival he laughed immoderately, and said:—"Madame, you are not ill, you are a chemical product. You are no longer a woman, but a 'sulphide.' It is not now a question of medical treatment, but a simple chemical reaction. I shall subject you to a bath of sulphuric acid, diluted with water. The acid will have the honour of combining with you; it will take up the sulphur, the metal will produce a 'sulphate,' and we shall find as a 'precipitate' a very pretty woman." The good-natured physician went through with his reaction, and the belle was restored to her membership with the white race.

Legal and Magisterial.

DIVORCE AND MATRIMONIAL CAUSES JURISDICTION.—Wednesday, 16th June.—(Before his Honour Mr. Justice Webb.)—Naylor v. Naylor.—This was a petition by Thomas Hamilton Naylor, a chemist, praying for a dissolution of his marriage with his wife, Emily Naylor. Dr. Madden for the petitioner; no appearance for the respondent or co-respondent. The petitioner was married to the respondent on the 8th June, 1885. She was at that time a widow, with several children. The co-respondent, Henry S. Haynes, was introduced by Mrs. Naylor to her husband, who said that Haynes was her brother. Shortly after the marriage the petitioner complained of his wife's conduct in stopping out late and going to places without his permission. On the 9th October she left him, and went to reside at Park Cottage, Balaclava-road. There she was frequently visited by Haynes. His Honour made a decree *nisi* for dissolution of the marriage.

At the Central Criminal Court, London, Absolom Wm. Head was recently charged with having caused the death of Henry Hibberd, through negligence, under somewhat peculiar circumstances. The accused, an unqualified medical assistant to Mr. Money, a surgeon, of Shoreditch, had been applied to by the wife of the deceased to prescribe for her husband, who was suffering from pains in the back and shoulders and insomnia. The accused prepared the following mixture:—Chloral hydrate, grs. 60; bromide of potassium, grs. 90; and solution of morphia, 3j., verbally directing the woman to administer the mixture half at once, and the remainder two hours later. On the label of the bottle, however, he varied this order by directing that one-third of the preparation should be taken every four hours. The wife did not refer to the label, but followed the verbal instruction, with the result that her husband died. Mr. Head was acquitted; but the *British and Colonial Druggist*, whilst approving of the verdict, makes a pertinent query as to what would have been said or done if the unqualified assistant of a druggist (instead of a surgeon) had occupied the position of the accused.

At Manchester, on 7th May, a labourer named Guest took a piece of opium, described as about the size of a pill. He fell into a deep sleep, from which he never awoke.

Poisoning Cases.

A SUDDEN death of a married woman, named Mrs. Bond, occurred at Mr. Jacob Clegg's farm, Wandin Yallock, near Lilydale, on the 3rd inst. Dr. Henderson, the local health officer, reported that the cause of death was lead poisoning. It appeared that the husband of the deceased had just come out of the Melbourne Hospital, where he has been treated for the same affection; it also transpired that another man employed on the same farm has been suffering from a similar cause. It was ascertained that Mrs. Bond was in the habit of making bread in a leaden dish, and Dr. Henderson was of opinion that the fermentation, acting upon the lead, developed the poison which led to the illness of those who partook of the bread. Dr. Henderson having certified to the cause of death, it was not considered necessary to hold an inquest.

AN inquest was held at Dimboola on the 19th June (before Messrs. P. Fraser and Sands, J.P.'s, the coroner for the district not attending), on the body of Richard Kinvig, saddler, of Dimboola, who died shortly after taking a sleeping draught procured from Mr. D'Albites, the local chemist. The evidence occupied four hours in the taking, and included that of three medical men. The verdict returned by the presiding justices was as follows:—"We are unable to state the cause of death in consequence of the medical opinions being so conflicting; but we think that death may have been accelerated by the sleeping draught which the deceased took half-an-hour before he expired." Mr. Fraser stated that the papers would be forwarded to the Crown Law office. Dr. Hayden expressed a firm conviction that the dose included in the ounce phial supplied, containing two drachms of morphia and half a drachm of chloral hydrate, was poison. Dr. Wilson expressed the opinion that he would not have given the dose to anyone not used to taking such draughts. Dr. Cross, who made the *post mortem*, was undecided, although he stated that the only thing diseased in the body was one congested lung. The decision of the Crown Law Department is awaited with interest.

It is claimed that the popular drink of the future will be milk charged with carbonic acid gas. Milk so charged keeps well.

Trade Notes.

By advertisement the Lands Department have invited tenders for a supply of arsenic, cotton waste, and phosphorus, to be used for the purpose of rabbit extirpation.

MR. R. B. DIXON, who visited the Australasian colonies last year as the representative of Messrs. S. Maw, Son and Thompson, has just returned to England after a tour through India for that firm.

MR. F. M. PITCHER, late with Messrs. Burgoyne, Burbidges, Cyriax and Farries, has recently arrived in the *John Elder*, under engagement to Messrs. Felton, Grimwade and Co., of Melbourne, to take charge of their laboratory.

MESSRS. HENRY DAVY AND CO., of Elizabeth-street, Melbourne, have removed the wholesale portion of their business to new premises at No. 34 Lonsdale-street west, Melbourne, where, in future, this branch of their business will be conducted.

THE pharmacy of Mr. G. T. Le Couteur, at Piper-street, Kyneton, has been sold to Mr. E. T. Church, through Messrs. Felton, Grimwade and Co., who have also concluded the sale of the business of Mr. T. O. Dunstone, at High-street, St. Kilda, to Mr. A. Andrews, of Beaufort.

MESSRS. KILNER BROS., of King's Cross, London, writing under date of the 14th May, desire us to mention that, anticipating that a number of their foreign customers will be visiting the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, they have provided accommodation for their correspondence at their offices, King's Cross.

A FEW copies of the *Chemists and Druggists' Diary* for 1886 can be obtained gratis on application to Mr. Shillinglaw, at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street. Preparations are now being made to issue, next year, a diary specially adapted to Australasian pharmacists, in connection with the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy*, and which will be supplied gratis to all subscribers to that journal, and to the members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia in New South Wales, Victoria, New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia, and Fiji.

Publications Received.

"SELECT EXTRA TROPICAL PLANTS," by Baron Sir F. Von Mueller, from the Government of Victoria.

Course of study, lectures, &c., at the Canterbury College School of Arts, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Journal de Médecine de Paris.

The *British and Colonial Druggist*, the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, the *Victorian Naturalist*, the *American Druggist*, the *Provincial Medical Journal*, the *British Medical Journal*, the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, the *American Journal of Pharmacy*, the *Australian Medical Journal*, the *Therapeutic Gazette*, the *Australasian Medical Gazette*, the *Medical Press*, the *Midland Medical Miscellany*, the *Analyst*, the *Pharmaceutical Record*.

OBITUARY.—The death is announced of Mr. Peter Williamson, one of the founders of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, in his 91st year. He was secretary at the meeting held on 23rd February, 1821, when the organisation of a College of Apothecaries was resolved upon, and he presided over the meeting held on 23rd February, 1871, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation. The deceased occupied many other positions of honour and trust.

Personalities.

MR. H. M. MARTEL, the representative of Professor Horsford's Acid Phosphate, is at present in Melbourne.

A NEW pharmacy will be shortly opened at North Fitzroy by Mr. W. W. Caught, late of Collins-street east, Melbourne.

WE learn that Mr. R. H. Roe, of Messrs. J. Stearns and Co., has just returned to Sydney after a most successful tour in Queensland.

WE regret to announce the death of Mr. Charles Gray M'Farlane, brother of Messrs. R. and J. M'Farlane, of Collingwood and Melbourne.

WE are informed that Messrs. W. Johnson and Son, of The Junction, Windsor, intend shortly opening a branch business in High-street, St. Kilda, near Balaclava.

MR. H. E. GAMSON, who for some time has been manager of Mr. T. O. Dunstone's business at High-street, St. Kilda, has purchased the pharmacy of Mr. Powell, at Albert Park.

A NEW pharmacy will shortly be opened by Messrs. R. and J. M'Farlane, of Fitzroy, in Elizabeth-street, Melbourne. The premises are situated between Collins-street and Little Collins-street.

MR. C. FRYER, a gentleman who, for some years past, has been resident in South Australia, and connected with Messrs. Faulding and Co., of Adelaide, has decided to settle in Victoria. Mr. Fryer is a pharmaceutical chemist of Great Britain, and a Bell's scholar.

WE mentioned in our last issue that Mr. Albert Andrews, of Beaufort, was about purchasing a suburban pharmacy. The purchase has now been completed, and Mr. Andrews has taken over the old established business of Mr. T. O. Dunstone, in High-street, St. Kilda.

WE regret to report the death of Mr. C. L. Henshall, son of Mr. S. H. Henshall, pharmacist, of Seymour. Mr. Henshall, who was a student at the College of Pharmacy, attended the lectures the day before his death, and was apparently in good health. He was a bright, intelligent youth, of great promise, and general sympathy is felt for the bereaved parents.

MR. C. R. BLACKETT has presented to the library of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia a copy of the first six introductory lectures delivered at the establishment of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, by A. T. Thomson, M.D., Andrew Ure, M.D., F.R.S., Prof. T. Redwood, J. Perciza, M.D., F.R.S., and Geo. Fownes, Esq.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

DEATHS.

DAVIES.—On 6th June, at sea, on board the *Carlisle Castle*, Charles Blackett, second son of Dr. T. S. Davies, and grandson of T. M. Blackett, Williamstown, aged two years and eleven months.

GEDDES.—On 5th July, at his mother's residence, 124 Collins-street East, Fletcher Pearson Geddes, eldest son of Ellen and William Geddes, chemist, Beechworth, and dearly beloved husband of Lizzie Coleman, aged 34, of phthisis.

HENSHALL.—On 4th July, at the residence of J. E. Booth, chemist, Smith-street, Collingwood, suddenly, Charles Lewis Henshall, eldest son of S. H. Henshall, chemist, Seymour.

M'FARLANE.—On 6th July, at the residence of his brother, 86 Gertrude-street, Fitzroy, Mr. Chas. M'Farlane, aged 34.

THE AUSTRALASIAN Journal of Pharmacy.

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AUGUST, 1886.

[VOL. I.

Original and Selected Articles.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.— ITS BIRTH AND PROGRESS.

A HISTORY of pharmacy in Victoria, to be of any value, must necessarily extend over a considerable space of reading matter, since the chronicle dates back to so remote a year as 1857, and the narrative must be largely composed of extracts from the official records. In proposing to ourselves the task of supplying such a history, we have fully considered that we must be prepared to devote a material portion of our space to its service; but we hope, by extending the work over several chapters, that we shall succeed in not too greatly encroaching upon our columns, while we make no doubt that we shall be doing the profession a service very grateful to its members.

The story of the birth and progress of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia commences with the record of a meeting of the chemists and druggists held at the house of Mr. Croad, Bourke-street, Melbourne, on 16th February, 1857, when "a committee was appointed to watch the 'Poisons Bill' introduced into the Legislative Council by Dr. Tierney; and also to take such measures as might be necessary for the purpose of forming an Association of Chemists and Druggists similar to that already existing in England under the title of The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain." The constitution of the committee is shown by the report, which also fully reviews the state of pharmaceutical affairs then existent, and embodies the matter of the record just stated.

The committee held several meetings at the residence of Mr. Glover, Collins-street, and the chemists and druggists were formally summoned, by advertisement and circular, to the Mechanics' Institute (now the Melbourne Athenæum) on 6th March of the year named. The meeting was presided over by Hon. J. Hood, M.L.C., and the committee's report was formally presented:—

"In consequence of the various attempts that have been made of late to interfere, by legislative enactment and otherwise, with the chemists and druggists of this colony (Victoria), it has been thought by many of the principal members of the trade in and around Melbourne that an organisation should be instituted for the purpose of protecting the trade generally, and also for elevating its character and position. These ideas were, however, allowed to slumber until Dr. Tierney brought into the Legislative Council his 'Poisons Bill,' for the regulation of the sale and the safe keeping of all poisons and deleterious drugs. On the appearance of the bill the trade felt justly indignant that a measure likely to affect their interests so materially should have been introduced without any consultation, and accordingly met in considerable numbers at the house of Mr. Croad, and determined to at once send in a petition against the passing of such

a crude and unnecessary measure. The petition was accordingly prepared, and signed by every member of the trade in and around Melbourne and Geelong, and placed in the hands of the Hon. J. Hood, M.L.C. A second meeting was held at the same place on the 16th instant (February, 1857), when your committee were appointed, consisting of Messrs. Croad, Williams, C. R. Blackett, Ford, Bosisto, Walton, Glover, and Lewis, for the purpose of waiting upon the members of the Legislative Council and urging the necessity for the rejection of the 'Poisons Bill' then before that House; and also to take the necessary steps for the formation of an Association of Chemists and Druggists. Respecting the first part of the duty, your committee have the pleasure to report that any lengthened opposition became unnecessary, as, on the following day, Dr. Tierney thought it most prudent to withdraw the bill, and the matter is now before a select committee of the Legislative Council; and it is believed that a considerable time will elapse before anything more will be heard about the 'Poisons Regulation Bill.' Thus much for the first part of your instructions. And, in coming to the subject of the formation of an Association, your committee think that, from what has already transpired, it is imperatively necessary that immediate steps be taken for the formation of an Association, which shall be in existence and at all times ready to take action should any attempt be made to infringe upon the rights and privileges of the chemists and druggists. The very fact of an organisation existing will probably prevent the bringing forward of any measure affecting the trade generally without first submitting it for consideration to the council of the Association. Your committee would, however, desire to place the subject before you for consideration upon higher grounds. Desirable as it is to be properly organised—that we may be able to defend ourselves against unjust aspersions and attacks—it is of greater consequence that we should have an organisation that will enable us to perfect ourselves in the art and science of pharmacy, afford opportunities and appliances for carrying out experiments, and to be a means of increasing our knowledge and promoting our comfort. None need be ashamed to own that there is much yet to learn, and a wide field still open for profitable investigation. Your committee would wish to refer you to the good that has resulted in England from the establishment of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain; and great as have been the results of its efforts, your committee are strongly of opinion that still greater good will arise from the proper organisation of a society (kindred in its character) for Victoria. The benefits that might be enumerated are, in the first place, the elevation of the trade in character, proper instructions for apprentices that may hereafter come in, a registry for all competent assistants, and also the formation of a benevolent fund for any indigent or unfortunate members. Should the society be established and properly supported, a library, museum, lecture-room, and laboratory should be instituted; and these alone would be worth all the trouble and expense that we might find it necessary to go to. By these means the young men, apprentices, and trade generally would have a suitable place to resort to, where they might spend their time in improving themselves in all that is essential for the proper discharge of their duties in the laboratory and shop. Your committee therefore recommend that a Pharmaceutical Society for Victoria be established forthwith, with a similar organisation and for the same purpose as the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. That the following gentlemen be appointed a committee to take the necessary steps for the formation of the society, and be empowered to collect funds and pay the necessary expenses; and that they bring up their report to the members of the Association within six months:—Messrs. French (of Williamstown), Archer and Thomas (of Geelong), Cooper, Johnson, Blackett, Croad, Lewis, Bosisto,

Walton, Glover, Ford, and Williams (of Melbourne). That the following persons be eligible for membership:—Those that are in business as chemists and druggists at the present time, and subscribe three guineas per annum; those that are in business as assistants, and subscribe one and a half guineas per annum; and registered apprentices, subscribing half a guinea per annum.—On behalf of the committee (Signed) G. H. WILLIAMS, Hon. Secretary."

Following upon the reading of the report it was unanimously agreed, on the motion of Mr. W. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Wilson, "that this meeting, having heard the report of the committee just read by the secretary, cordially approves of it, and resolves to carry out its recommendations." It was next agreed, on the motion of Mr. F. Cooper, seconded by Mr. Dunstone, "that an association of chemists and druggists be now formed, to be called 'The Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria,' having for its object the advancement of pharmacy, by furnishing such a uniform system of education as shall secure to the profession and the public the safest and most efficient administration of medicine; and the uniting its members into a recognised and independent body." A code of rules and regulations, principally taken from the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, was then submitted, and (on the motion of Mr. W. Ford, seconded by Mr. Wrentmore) referred to the provisional committee for revision. The provisional committee (appointed on the motion of Mr. Kingsland, seconded by Mr. Plummer) consisted of the following:—Messrs. Johnson (St. Kilda), Archer and Thomas (Geelong), F. Cooper (Collins-street), French (Williamstown), Croad (Bourke-street), C. R. Blackett (Napier-street, Fitzroy), J. Bosisto (Richmond), Walton, Glover, and Lewis (Collins-street), and G. W. Williams (Brunswick-street, Fitzroy). The customary vote of thanks to the chairman was proposed by Mr. H. W. Willison, and seconded by Mr. Bosisto; and the proceedings closed with the enrollment of the following gentlemen as members of the society:—Messrs. Jno. Hood, Wm. Ford, Wm. Johnson, G. H. Williams, Joseph Bosisto, Samuel J. T. Croad, George Wilson, Edwin Plummer, W. H. Florance, Geo. Walton, David Thomas, Geo. Wragge, Jas. W. Blair, Jas. W. Don, Geo. Kingsland, C. A. Atkin, Wm. Jno. Denham, J. M. Thomas, J. A. Williams, T. O. Dunstone, Wm. Bowen, Jas. Dixon, Geo. Lewis, Robert Glover, J. M. Thomas, F. Wrentmore, J. M. Vinge, F. Cooper, Evan Prosser, Edward Garsed, D. C. Dingwell (assistant), Jno. Connor (assistant).

We have been careful to give all names mentioned in the records, since we conceive that no small credit belongs to those pioneers who laid the foundations of the powerful organisation whose history we write.

Thirty years is a long time to look back upon, and, alas! the scythe-bearer has taken from us the majority of the gentlemen to whose names we owe respectful memory; but it is gratifying to us, as it must be to the survivors of that "happy few," to know that they are still with us, and in the foremost ranks of the profession for which they have done so much. That Mr. Bosisto is very much alive we all know; Mr. Wm. Bowen, our president, is, we hope, rejuvenating in the gaieties of London society; Mr. C. A. Atkin's Quinine Wine is quite a household word with us. Mr. Blackett continues to be ever diligent in the advancement of pharmacy. That Mr. Wm. Johnson is in the active practice of his profession a host of adulterating tradesmen will bear convincing testimony. Mr. T. O. Dunstone has recently retired from business; Mr. Don still flourishes at Richmond; Mr. Geo. Lewis, although retired from active life, is still with us; Mr. Prosser is the head of the well-known Sydney wholesale house; and Mr. Geo. Kingsland continues one of West Melbourne's identities.

(To be continued.)

DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW PLANTS FROM THE WESTERN REGIONS OF AUSTRALIA;

BY BARON VON MUELLER, K.C.M.G., M. & PH.D., F.R.S.

Melaleuca seorsiflora.—Quite glabrous; leaves scattered, conspicuously stalked, short, semicylindric-linear, spreading, nerveless, bluntnish; flowers small, solitary in the axils; tube of the calyx ellipsoid-cylindric, twice longer than broad; lobes semilanceolate-linear, nearly half as long as the tube; petals white, oval, inflexed longitudinally; stamens white, 10—14 in each set; filaments fascicularly arranged, from as long as the connate part to twice as long; anthers oval, pale; ovary immersed.

Near Mount Rugged; Miss S. Brooke.

Leaves from a quarter to nearly half an inch long, somewhat narrowed into the base and apex, not shining nor very crowded. Flowers towards and near the summit of the branchlets, but not forming spikes. Calyx remarkably slender, nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long. Petals tender-membranous, not ciliated. Fruit not seen. Height and stature of plant also as yet unknown.

Allied to *M. dissitiflora*, particularly so far as the dispersion of the flowers is concerned, but the leaves shorter and blunter, no distinct bracts developed unless very fugaciously, the calyx considerably longer and the fruit also likely different.—From *M. pauperiflora*, to which *M. fasciculiflora* of Bentham is near akin, our additional species differs principally in the solitary position of the flowers, in non-occurrence of long-persistent and imbricated bracts, in the elongation of the calyces and their pointed lobes, in the longer integral portions of the stamens with somewhat more numerous filaments,—the fruit also in this instance requiring comparison. The strong odour of the plant indicates its antiseptic value.

Goodenia O'Donnellii.—Decumbent, short-hairy; branches leafy, slender; lower leaves obovate-cuneate, upper cuneate-lanceolar, gradually narrower and smaller, all flat, denticulated and narrowed into a petiolar base; peduncles none; pedicels axillary, solitary or two or three together, about as long as the flowers; bracteoles none; lobes of the calyx linear, broader downward, nearly as long as the tube; corolla yellow, somewhat hairy outside, the three lower lobes rather short, the two upper laterally produced outward into a small semiorbicular appendage; anthers minutely pointed; style glabrous, hardly half as long as the corolla; cover of the stigma longitudinally much impressed, bearded only at the orifice; fruit-capsule roundish, compressed, at and near the base only septate; seeds few, large, standing nearly at the same level and not much shorter than the valves, flat, pale-brownish, surrounded by a conspicuous colourless membrane.

Near the Ord-River; H. T. O'Donell.

Seemingly an herbaceous plant. Stem or branches weak. Leaves of thin consistence, equally pale-green, the lower $1\frac{1}{2}$ —2 inches long, the upper of lesser dimensions, those towards the end of the branches almost reduced to bracts, thus rendering there the inflorescence a foliate raceme; denticulations rather remote and not extending to the lower portion of the leaves. Pedicels slender, generally about half an inch long; the joint at the base of the calyx. Corolla about $\frac{1}{3}$ inch long, inside thinly white-velvety towards the base. The bulging of the stigma-cover indicative of an inclination to form two partitions, as in the section *Distylis* of *Calogyne*. Capsule measuring hardly more than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. Surrounding membrane of the seeds not very broad.

Affinity connects this plant variously with several congeners, while its external appearance reminds also of *Catospermum Muelleri*. From *G. coronopifolia*

it differs already in hairiness, form of leaves and short flower-stalklets;—from *G. Mitchelli* in less dense vestiture, the absence of any decurrent protuberance of the corolla and the membranously margined seeds;—from *G. hispida* in shorter hairiness, prostrate stems, broader leaves, less elongated pedicels and the surrounding seed-membrane;—from *G. cycloptera* in leafy branches, shape of the leaves, disposition of flowers and pale seeds. This plant shares in the tonic bitterness, for which so many Goodenias are remarkable.

WE reprint from the *Pharmaceutical Journal* of 26th June the following paper, read before the School of Pharmacy Students' Association of Great Britain. It will interest our readers to know that the author is a native of Victoria, and a son of Mr. F. S. Grimwade, of Melbourne:—

A KINO FROM EUCALYPTUS MACULATA.

By E. NORTON GRIMWADE.

THE subject of the paper I am about to read before you this evening is an Australian kino; this, I believe, is its first appearance in England, and it has never appeared in the English drug markets. I am indebted for my supply of the gum to the kindness of Mr. Holmes, who has furnished me with a portion of a sample sent to him by a friend in Brisbane.

The tree which yields the gum is a member of the genus *Eucalyptus*, and has for its *confrères* those giants of vegetation who rear their mighty forms all over the Australian continent.

The species from which the gum exudes spontaneously is the *Eucalyptus maculata*, which, although not one of the largest of the tribe, is a good sized tree; it often runs up to a height of 90 feet before a branch is given off.

The tree, I believe, grows mostly in Queensland and New South Wales, and should any useful application be found for the gum it could be obtained in almost unlimited quantities, and so soon become a drug of the markets.

So far as I am aware no analysis has yet been made of the gum, and I thought an investigation might be a useful addition to our knowledge of the Eucalypti, at all events it would be of some interest to us students of pharmacy.

The gum, as may be seen from specimens, is in a very crude state, containing much foreign matter, such as bark, quartz, etc., which renders a quantitative analysis a matter of considerable difficulty.

To begin with, I tried the effect of various solvents, with the result that rectified spirit proved to be much the best, dissolving about 80·85 per cent., the residue consisting chiefly of impurities, from which I was unable to free the gum before weighing. The quantity of extraneous matter would, of course largely affect the result, and I have no doubt the pure gum is entirely soluble in the above-named menstruum. By the action of cold water about 18·9 per cent. was dissolved; this solution would contain any tannin existing in the gum. Warm water was found to extract a slightly higher percentage, but the solution became turbid on cooling.

The amount of volatile constituents was determined to be about 7·07 per cent., and consisted almost entirely of water, with the merest trace of a volatile oil, to which the peculiar aromatic odour, strongly resembling styrol, possessed by the gum, is due.

The quantity of this oil is extremely small; by steam distilling I succeeded in getting two or three drops from about three-quarters of a pound of gum; this sample, though very minute, is sufficient to recognise the characteristic odour of the drug.

I found no trace of either benzoic or cinnamic acids in the gum. Having ascertained the presence of tannin by appropriate tests, I set about establishing its identity or otherwise with any of the known varieties of tannic acids, with the result that it was found to be very nearly allied to, if not identical with, quercotannic acid, giving the blue-black precipitate with ferric chloride which is readily distinguished from the dirty green precipitate produced by kinotannic acid, the variety existing in the B.P. kino (*Pterocarpus marsupium*.)

In estimating the amount of tannin present I employed two methods of estimation, the first of which consisted in precipitating tannate of copper with cupric acetate, drying, igniting, oxidising with HNO_3 , and weighing the oxide of copper; then by calculation the amount of tannin necessary to form that oxide of copper can be determined. By this means the tannin present was found to be 9·91 per cent. In this process, the precipitating, drying, and igniting should be done as quickly as possible, as quercotannic acid is one of the most unstable of tannins, and is liable to decompose during manipulation, which would give anything but true results. The second method was the skin process, about which it is unnecessary for me to go into details, as on 18th March last, Mr. Walter Ince read a paper before this Society fully describing the process, it being based upon the fact that raw hide will extract tannin from solution. I obtained as the result that the gum contained 10·15 per cent of tannin.

It will be seen on comparing these two results that they very closely approximate, the difference being only 0·24 per cent.; the quantity of tannin present may therefore be put down as 10 per cent. The tannin for qualitative investigation was obtained by percolating coarsely-powdered gum with cold water; this tannin solution contained a little of the colouring matter of the gum, which was got rid of by precipitating the tannin with acetate of lead, and after well washing the precipitate excess of H_2S was passed through it suspended in water; this formed the insoluble lead sulphide, leaving the tannic acid in solution, and after boiling well to drive off the excess of H_2S and filtering, a practically pure solution of the acid was obtained.

The acid precipitated gelatin as a white precipitate, similar to gallotannic acid. No precipitation occurred when added to an aluminium salt, or to a solution of $\text{KSbC}_4\text{H}_4\text{O}_7$; with $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{CO}_3$ a brownish flocculent precipitate was produced, soluble in excess and depositing on standing.

On boiling a solution of the tannin with a little H_2SO_4 for some hours, a red amorphous substance settled down on cooling; this was found to resemble quercus-red, and when dried and fused with caustic potash gave evidence of phloroglucin and protocatechuic acid. The gum answers the test for kino given by Flückiger and Hanbury, of giving a violet colour when a solution is shaken with reduced iron.

I tried the gum as a varnish, employing as solvents turpentine, methylated spirit, and linseed oil, with the results shown; the linseed oil and turpentine I believe practically dissolved nothing, but the methylated spirit has yielded a hard, smooth and transparent varnish.

A discussion followed, in which the chairman, secretary, Messrs. Eastes, Farr, and Orange took part.

ONE of M. Pasteur's latest reports on his inoculations to the French Academy of Medicine is more encouraging than recent accounts would lead people to suppose. Out of 950 cases treated, only six have proved fatal. These include the four Russians bitten by a wolf. The subscriptions to the Pasteur Institute amount to nearly £27,000.

THE AUSTRALASIAN

Journal of Pharmacy

With which is incorporated the Australasian Chemist and Druggist.

Published on the 20th of each Month.

THIS Journal, which is the only organ of Pharmacy in the Australasian Colonies, is devoted to the advancement of Pharmaceutical knowledge, and to the advocacy of a more thorough education and practical training for all persons engaged in preparing and dispensing medicines, drugs, and chemicals. It is issued gratis to the members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia in

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No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for

insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will be glad to consider any suggestions from Members and Subscribers regarding the improvement of this publication.

Contributions of any items of interest are invited.

Advertisements to be inserted in the next issue should be received by the Publisher not later than the 14th of each month.

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Readers are respectfully requested to mention this Journal when acting on information obtained from it.

Editorial.**THE DISCRETIONARY POWERS OF THE PHARMACY BOARD.**

ELSEWHERE we publish a special report of the case of Dimock *versus* the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, which has excited no small degree of interest in pharmaceutical circles, and we think our readers will generally agree with us in a feeling of deep disappointment that the Chief Justice of Victoria, for whose great learning and legal ability no one entertains a higher admiration than ourselves, should consider the grave questions involved of such slight importance as to justify him in dealing with the case in so summary a manner. This feeling must be further intensified when we state that the assumption upon which his Honour justified himself in declining to give an interpretation of the disputed section of the Act, viz., that Dimock's was probably the last case which would arise under it, has no foundation in fact, and that, as several other aspirants to pharmaceutical honours are known to be eagerly awaiting the result of Dimock's application, the Pharmacy Board will be compelled to expend money, which would otherwise be available for the more immediate benefit of pharmacy, in applying to the Full Court for the interpretation which the Chief Justice has practically refused to render.

The facts of the case are so clearly stated in our special report that it is unnecessary for us to repeat them here, but as some of our readers may not have at hand a copy of the Pharmacy Act, it may be advisable to quote at length the subdivision of the section under which Mr. Dimock claims registration. It is as follows:—

18. No person shall receive from the Board a certificate that he is duly qualified for registration as a registered pharmaceutical chemist unless he shall have attained the age of twenty-one years, and unless

- (I.) At any time before the date of the commencement of this Act he shall for not less than two months have carried on the business of a chemist and druggist or homœopathic chemist in the keeping of an open shop for the compounding and dispensing of the prescriptions of legally qualified medical practitioners, or unless
- (II.) At any time before the date of the commencement of this Act he shall *for not less than three months have been employed as a dispensing assistant* in an open shop for the compounding and dispensing of the prescriptions of legally qualified medical practitioners or until he shall have been for not less than three years employed as a dispensing chemist in an hospital benevolent asylum or other public institution.

Mr. Dimock, it will be seen, claims that, having previously served as an apprentice for *two years*, he had been employed as a dispensing assistant from 1st October, 1874, to July, 1876. The certificate of registration of birth shows that Mr. Dimock was born on the 5th April, 1861, from which it would appear that, at the date when he had emerged from the condition of an apprentice to that of a full-fledged assistant dispenser, he had reached the mature age of thirteen years and a half, or thereabouts. Unfortunately the Act fails to impose any condition as regards the age of assistants entitled to claim; but we think our readers will agree with us that it was scarcely contemplated by the Legislature that a boy who, when the Act came into force, had not reached his sixteenth year should be entitled to take advantage of the clause by which it was intended to conserve the existing rights of chemists and qualified assistants; and that the Pharmacy Board would have been unfaithful to the grave responsibilities of their position if they had admitted such claims until compelled to do so by a decision of the judicial authorities.

Important, however, as this phase of the case is, it is by no means the main question at issue, and if the Chief Justice's decision is not set aside by the Full Court the result can scarcely fail to be disastrous to the best interests of pharmacy as well as of the public. As was clearly pointed out by Mr. Isaacs, wherever the Legislature imposes a mandate on the Board it has done so in express terms, and it naturally follows that as, instead of providing that under certain circumstances applicants *shall be entitled* to a certificate, the Act is limited to describing the conditions without the fulfilment of which the Board cannot grant such certificates, the intention of the Legislature being that the Board should have absolute discretionary power to deal with applicants, and to take into consideration many other circumstances for which it was not considered necessary to make special provision in the Act. The Chief Justice's decision practically denies the existence of any such discretionary power; and should it be upheld, no matter whether he be insane or guilty of offences or conduct proving him to be totally unfit to be entrusted with the responsible duties of the profession, the Board will, in future, be compelled to grant every applicant who has fulfilled the prescribed legal conditions the power to announce himself to the public as a duly qualified pharmacist. If such be the law, its amendment must be sought without delay; but in the meantime the Pharmacy Board deserve, and will no doubt receive, the sympathy of the profession and the public in appealing against a decision which would deprive them of the powers which have hitherto been used to such good advantage to both classes.

THE INTERCOLONIAL PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

It cannot fail to be most gratifying to pharmacists throughout Australasia to learn that the Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference, to take place at Melbourne in October next, now gives every promise of proving as successful as could be wished. The bringing about of such a gathering is necessarily a task of considerable difficulty, and we are well pleased in being able to make the announcement that, with the exception of Queensland, all the colonies have now signified their intention of taking part in a movement from which highly beneficial results to the profession are certain to accrue. The Victorian Society has wisely limited its representation to two members, Mr. C. R. Blackett, on behalf of the Pharmacy Board, and Mr. Thomas Huntsman, on behalf of the Pharmaceutical Society, being selected to do duty for Victoria; and the other colonies will be similarly represented. The programme of the Conference will shortly be in the hands of the various bodies interested, so that the matters to be dealt with will be thoroughly threshed out beforehand, and delegates will be positioned to give a representative vote upon questions at issue. The date of the Conference gives the Victorian brethren ample means of providing for the enjoyment of their visitors, so that this long-desired meeting may be expected to prove memorable in the happiest sense of the term.

POPULARISING THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

In our July issue we were enabled to make the important and gratifying announcement that the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia had remodelled the scale of charges hitherto in force in connection with the College of Pharmacy, as well as to divide the year into two sessions, instead of one. This departure is an immediate outcome of the Government's recognition of the public obligations to pharmacy—the vote with which the school is endowed—by means of which the Society was enabled to carry out the previously impracticable design of engaging the entire services of a lecturer and director. Formerly the session commenced in March, and it was impossible for a student, however well fortified, to obtain his certificate in less than a year, while the year was lost to him unless his attendance at the lectures commenced in the month named. Formerly, also, the fees for the session for *materia medica* and *botany* were fixed at eight guineas. The price of instruction in these subjects is now reduced by two guineas. A reduction of three guineas has also been made in regard to the single subjects, *materia medica* and *botany*. Highly important alterations have been instituted in the practical chemistry section, the hours of instruction having been so extended as should greatly assist in enabling students to qualify themselves with the least possible delay. A notable feature in connection with the last-named classes is the fact that students are now supplied with all necessary apparatus, instead of having to provide themselves therewith, and that they can now enter for any period at any date. There is an apparent increase in the charges for chemistry and practical chemistry, but the increase in the hours of instruction makes the alteration all in favour of the student. The effects of this effort to popularise the College are already evident in the very considerable augmentation which the classes have received by the enrollment of workers in various industrial pursuits who have hastened to avail themselves of Mr. A. H. Jackson's teaching in those branches of chemistry applicable to the manufactures in which they are engaged. That those immediately interested fully appreciate the benefits which the new scheme bestows upon them is, therefore, certain; and, since every step which has the effect of lessening the cost of, and increasing the facilities for, acquiring know-

ledge is to be very heartily welcomed by all, the Council is to be warmly congratulated upon having been positioned to institute the new order of things, from which most beneficial results to pharmacy, to the industries whose products are dependent upon a knowledge of chemistry, and to the public at large, cannot fail to accrue. If any tinge of reservation attaches to this congratulation, it will be solely due to a general regret that the claims of the College of Pharmacy were not earlier recognised, so that the Council might have been enabled to institute these most valuable reforms at a much earlier date.

Meetings.

THE PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA.

THE monthly meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria was held at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, Melbourne, on Wednesday, the 11th August, 1886.

Present—Messrs. Blackett, Brind, Francis, Owen, Strutt, and Tompsitt.

The president (Mr. C. Blackett) in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION.

The following applicants, having furnished the necessary statutory declarations as to their qualification, were duly registered as pharmaceutical chemists:—

Alexander Brown, 265 Chapel-street, Windsor, minor examination Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

Thomas James Leary, St. Arnaud, in business in Dunedin, N.Z., before October, 1876.

Edward Llanover Halle, 219 Chapel-street, Windsor, in business in New South Wales before October, 1876.

APPRENTICES' INDENTURES REGISTERED.

John William Harris, St. Kilda, apprenticed to Mr. Albert Andrews.

CERTIFICATES UNDER THE SALE AND USE OF POISONS ACT

Were granted to Shirley W. Brooke, Moe.

William Sterling, Winchelsea.

W. R. Currie, Kyabram.

R. M'Culloch, Drouin.

John M'Kay, Pyramid Hill.

THE CASE OF G. A. DIMOCK.

The decision of his Honour the Chief Justice in this case, calling upon the Board to register the applicant, was laid before the Board.

The registrar reported that the opinion of counsel (Messrs. Hodges and Isaac) had been taken, and they advised an appeal to the Full Court. After some discussion, it was resolved that the appeal should be prosecuted.

THE SALE AND USE OF POISONS ACT.

It was resolved that the following additional articles be proclaimed poisons within the meaning of the "Sale and Use of Poisons Act," subject to the approval of the Governor-in-Council:—

Carbolic Acid.

Elaterium.

Chloride of Antimony.

Elaterin.

Barium. Salts of.

Nux Vomica.

Zinc Chloride.

Nitro-glycerine, medicinal.

Creosote.

Digitalis, and its preparations.

Phosphorus (except red amorphous).

THE INTERCOLONIAL PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

It was unanimously resolved that the president, Mr. C. R. Blackett, and Mr. Henry Brind, Ballarat, be appointed to represent the Pharmacy Board of Victoria at the forthcoming Conference, it being understood that voting power should be regulated by the number of representatives from the other colonies.

NAMES ERASED FROM THE PHARMACEUTICAL REGISTER OF VICTORIA.

The names of the following deceased persons were ordered to be erased:—

Thos. Hopper, Carngham.

William Rawle, Hawthorn.

Frank Russell Fullarton, Melbourne.

|THE QUARTERLY EXAMINATIONS.

The examiners submitted to the Board the questions for the September examinations, which were ordered to be printed.

A communication was received from the Pharmaceutical Society in reference to the alteration of the term for holding lectures, the proposal being that there be two courses of five months in each year instead of, as at present, one session, extending from March to November.

The proposals (which were printed in full in the July issue of this Journal) were, after some discussion, agreed to, and it was suggested that the Council be requested to ask the Schools of Mines of Ballarat and Sandhurst to adopt the same term.

Correspondence and financial business closed the meeting.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

THE monthly meeting of the Council was held at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, Melbourne, on Friday, the 13th August.

Present—Messrs. Brinsmead, Baker, Blackett, Francis, Gamble, Harrison, Huntsman, Hooper, Kingsland, Nelson, and Tompsitt.

The vice-president, Mr. Brinsmead, in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

NEW MEMBERS.

The nomination of eleven new members was received, and they will be balloted for at the next meeting.

THE INTERCOLONIAL PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

Since the report presented to the meeting on the 9th ult., replies have been received from all the colonies, most of whom will be represented.

New South Wales has elected two representatives, New Zealand two, South Australia one (and it is hoped that a second may attend), Tasmania two (one from Hobart and one from Launceston), Queensland has not yet sent any decided answer, Western Australia and Fiji will not be represented, and Victoria has nominated two delegates.

The circular embracing the whole of the subjects to be submitted to the Conference is now in the course of preparation, and will be forwarded to the various Pharmaceutical Societies and Boards in the colonies, in order that the matter may be thoroughly discussed with the delegates before their departure.

The president of the Conference is to be elected from amongst the delegates at the first meeting, and the voting power of every colony will be equal. A ceremonial committee has been appointed. The report of the committee concludes by hoping that the importance of the Conference will commend itself to all who are interested in the welfare and advancement of pharmacy in the Australasian colonies.

THE DENTAL REGISTRATION ACT.

The committee who met the representatives of the Odontological Society in reference to the proposed Dental Act reported that, after carefully considering the various clauses, they were satisfied that the bill protected the legitimate rights of pharmacists to practice dentistry in conjunction with pharmacy.

THE LATE MR. W. RAWLE.

On the motion of Mr. C. R. Blackett, seconded by Mr. Kingsland, it was unanimously resolved that a letter of condolence be forwarded to the family of the deceased gentleman, and that a record be placed on the minutes of the Council in recognition and appreciation of his past services to the society.

DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

Chondodendron tomentosum; Benzoin—large specimen of the gum-resin recovered from ancient wreck of a Dutch East Indiaman, from Mr. H. Francis, Bourke-street, Melbourne.

Cortex Rhamnus Purshiana; Cortex Rhamnus Frangula, from Mr. T. Huntsman, Nicholson-street, Fitzroy.

Two brass suction pipes for rapid filtering, from Professor A. Mica-Smith, Ballarat.

THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of the Medical Society of Victoria was held in the Society's Hall, Albert-street, on Wednesday evening, the 4th August. There was a large attendance of members, the president (Dr. Jamieson) occupying the chair. Several pamphlets and reports were presented to the society through the Medical Board and the Central Board of Health. Dr. Joyce and Dr. Nutting were elected members of the society. Dr. Balls-Headley read a paper on a series of gynaecological cases, some of them extremely rare. Dr. J. P. Ryan read notes of a very peculiar case of injury to the spine. Considerable discussion followed both papers. The scale of fees adopted by the society in 1877 was revised, amended, and ordered to be printed for circulation.

THE ODONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE monthly meeting of the Odontological Society was held on Thursday, 5th August; Mr. Cumming (president) being in the chair. Messrs. L. A. Carter, D.D.S., and F. E. Holloway were proposed for membership. The president reported that the sub-committee appointed had met a committee of the Pharmaceutical Society, and that they had expressed approval of the provisions of the Dental Bill as affecting pharmacists. A paper was read by Mr. G. Thomson, L.D.S., on "Fractures."

IN a paper communicated to the Academia Libre de Medicina of Lima, Peru, Dr. Alfredo Bignon says that therapeutically good cocaine [the alkaloid] should be white, nearly inodorous, completely insoluble in 3 parts of alcohol, in 2 parts of ether, in chloroform, in carbon bisulphide, and in 20 parts of benzin.

THE French Senate offers a prize of from 25,000 francs to 50,000 francs to any chemist who shall discover the best practical method for making researches with the view of ascertaining the toxic principles and impurities contained in "vinic alcohol."

The Month.

THE Pharmacy Board, on the advice of counsel, have decided to appeal to the Full Court against the decision given by the Chief Justice in the case of G. A. Dimock.

THE Pharmacy Board, at its last meeting, decided to add a number of additional articles to the schedules of the Sale and Use of Poisons Act. The list appears elsewhere.

DR. JAMES TRAQUE, whilst visiting his patients in Kew on Friday, the 6th August, was violently assaulted without any warning by a drunken man, who rushed out of a public-house and struck him a severe blow on the face in passing.

AT the last meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society, Messrs. C. R. Blackett and Thos. Huntsman (representing the Pharmacy Board and Pharmaceutical Society) were appointed the delegates for Victoria to the Inter-colonial Pharmaceutical Conference.

A PHOTOMETER, an appliance for measuring the power of chemical rays in light, has been invented by Mr. H. Sutton, A.I.E., England, who resides in this colony. The appliance is calculated to be of great value to photographers particularly, as enabling them to arrive at a correct estimate of the exposure their plates will require in any light.

SHEPHERD R. CORDER, a member of the medical profession, was brought before the City Court on Wednesday, the 4th August, on a charge of attempted suicide. Corder was staying at Finlay's Hotel, Spencer-street. He was found lying on the floor of his bedroom with his pocket-knife near him smeared with blood. He was remanded for medical treatment.

THE following are the dates of the Quarterly Examinations under the Pharmacy Act:—Preliminary, at Melbourne, Ballarat, Sandhurst, 1st September; Examination for the certificate of the College of Pharmacy, 2nd and 3rd September; Modified Examination, 7th September; Practical Pharmacy, 6th and 7th September. The examinations will commence each day at 10 o'clock a.m.

ONE of the largest printing contracts on record has been entered into between the manufacturer of a medical nostrum and a firm of printers in England. The bargain is for 40,000,000 pamphlets of thirty-two pages, and 400,000,000 pamphlets of four-page circulars—the whole to cost over £200,000. The work is to be done in England, Germany, and America.

THE Government have recently accepted two large contracts for the supply of sulphur and arsenic, the successful tenderers being—for the sulphur, Messrs. Rocke, Tonipsitt and Co.; and for the arsenic, Messrs. Felton, Grimwade and Co. A contract for the supply of some 4000 drums of bisulphide of carbon is now before the Tender Board, and was not decided when we went to Press.

THE *British and Colonial Druggist* of 26th June might appropriately be termed the Bosisto Number, so much of its space being devoted to our famous chieftain. A sketch of Mr. Bosisto's career is appropriately associated with a full-page portrait, and a detailed account of the Eucalyptus Distilleries of Messrs. J. Bosisto and Co. is accompanied by two illustrations of the scene of the works.

THE premises of Messrs. Straker Bros. and Co., the printers of the *British and Colonial Druggist*, were destroyed by fire on the 9th June, the whole of the type, electros, and copy of the paper being consumed. The issue of the 12th June, however, was duly issued, although anyone having any experience of publishing will realise how sore must have been the strain upon the staff of our esteemed contemporary to avoid disappointing its readers.

THE November number of the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy* will contain a special report of the Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference, with, if possible, portraits of all the delegates. It will be sent, as a memento, to every pharmacist in the Australasian colonies, and some thousands of copies will be sent to all parts of the world. The number will offer the best means to advertisers of reaching the whole of the drug trade in Australasia that has, perhaps, ever occurred.

THE first lady surgeon qualified in Great Britain has been invested with the letters testimonial of the Irish College of Surgeons under the new powers granted to it by its charter of 1885. The lady is Mrs. Mary Emily Dowson, wife of a gentleman who is practising as an engineer in London. She obtained her education at the London School of Medicine for Females, and produced all the evidences for study required by the London College of Surgeons, besides her diploma of L.K.Q.C.P.I., which she had already obtained.

LETTERS patent have been granted by the Attorney-General to Mr. H. J. G. Cattanach, of Sydney, for an improved method of preparing a deodorant and disinfectant, the deodorant being prepared from an admixture of sulphate of iron, peroxide of manganese, and oil of eucalyptus of stated quantities boiled with water, thus forming a liquid which has no disinfecting properties, but, by the method of adding certain quantities of caustic soda and oxide of manganese to such mixture, a fluid is produced which forms the improved deodorant and disinfectant.

WE are pleased to state that we have made an exceptionally good arrangement for the distribution of this journal throughout the colony of New South Wales, where, we are glad to find, it is much esteemed for its straightforward and independent principles. It is the aim of the conductors of the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy* that it should be an entirely independent journal, open to all, "impartial and neutral," its objects the elevation and advancement of pharmacy and the kindred arts, and it is exceedingly gratifying to us to find this is fully recognised by the large measure of support received from our friends in New South Wales.

AT the last committee meeting of the Sandhurst Juvenile and Industrial Exhibition Mr. R. Bloomfield Rees, of Eaglehawk, brought forward a suggestion that would be of great benefit, and which would stimulate the study of botany throughout the district. He suggested that there should be a herbarium in the exhibition, and the botanical and common names of the various plants affixed to them. He had seen such things in England and France, but in this colony visitors to the parks and gardens were sometimes at a loss to know what was the nature of the specimens they were looking at. Mr. Rees offered to donate £5 5s. to be devoted to a prize for the best herbarium in the exhibition. The offer was accepted with thanks.

THE DENTAL REGISTRATION ACT.

A MEETING of the Odontological and Pharmaceutical Societies was held at the College of Pharmacy on 25th July to consider the proposed Dental Act introduced into Parliament by Dr. Rose. There were present:—Messrs. J. Cumming, Townsend Thomson, and Iliffe from the Odontological Society, and Messrs. Francis, Huntsman, Tompsitt, and Shillinglaw from the Pharmaceutical Society. On the motion of Mr. Tompsitt, Mr. J. Cumming (president of the Odontological Society) took the chair. The clauses of the bill were read by the chairman, and discussed by the gentlemen present. The following is the clause agreed to, which provides for the registration of persons practising dentistry in conjunction with pharmacy before the passing of the Act, and which will entitle them to register as dentists:—"Any person who is, at the passing of this Act, *bona fide* engaged in any

part of Victoria in the practice of dentistry or dental surgery, either separately or in conjunction with the practice of medicine, surgery, or pharmacy." An impression prevailed that it would be desirable to place the administration of the Act in the hands of a Board composed entirely of dentists, and not—as proposed in the bill—half dentists and half medical men. These and several other minor details were left in the hands of Mr. Thomson, the hon. secretary of the Odontological Society, and Mr. Shillinglaw, hon. secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society, to discuss with Dr. Rose.

DIMOCK v. THE PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA.

A RULE *nisi* calling upon the Pharmacy Board of Victoria to show cause why a *mandamus* should not be issued to compel them to grant a certificate to George Augustus Dimock was argued before Sir William Stawell, Chief Justice, on 29th July. It appeared from the affidavits that Dimock had, prior to the coming into operation of the Pharmacy Act, served as an apprentice to his father, George Dimock, a medical practitioner, under a verbal agreement, for two years, and had also been employed as a dispensing assistant to his father from 1st October, 1874, to July, 1876, at a salary. In October, 1879, Dimock applied to the Board for a certificate, when the secretary wrote stating that it appeared that he was fourteen years of age when an assistant, and asking him to state how old he was when apprenticed. No reply was received to this letter, but on the 19th April, 1882, Dimock wrote, stating that since November, 1879, he had been continuously engaged dispensing in his father's open shop, which period, with the others, made a total of nearly seven years; that he was now of age, and asking for a grant of the certificate. In answer to this, a letter was written on the 25th April, 1882, stating that the Board had previously decided that the applicant was not eligible for registration, and that the time served since the date of the previous application did not in any way alter the applicant's position. No further communication was received until 12th January, 1886, when a letter was received from Dimock's solicitor, submitting that he was entitled to registration. The Board then asked that a copy of the certificate of the registration of his birth be forwarded, from which it appeared that he was born on the 5th April, 1861. The Board refused the various applications for a certificate on the ground that it did not consider that a boy of his years, when the Pharmacy Act 1876 came into operation, could possibly have acquired sufficient knowledge and experience to render it safe to the public that he should be entrusted with the dispensing of prescriptions and the sale of poisons, etc.

Mr. Box and Mr. Smith, in support of the rule *nisi*, quoted Section 18 of the Pharmacy Act, which provides that no person shall receive from the Board a certificate unless he is 21 years of age, and unless at any time before the date of the commencement of the Act he shall have carried on the business of a chemist, etc., for not less than two months, or unless at any time before the date of the commencement of the Act he shall for not less than three months have been employed as a dispensing assistant in an open shop for the compounding and dispensing of the prescriptions of legally qualified medical practitioners. These two clauses are the only clauses of the Act which preserve existing rights, and Parliament has laid down the condition under which those actually carrying on the business of a chemist, or being dispensing assistants, are to be registered as chemists. These clauses, the counsel for the applicant contended, leave no discretion in the Board to grant or refuse a certificate to any person who can bring himself within them. The applicant in this case has sworn that he was a dispensing assistant in an open shop for a considerable

time before the Act came into operation. This fact is uncontradicted, and therefore he is entitled as of right to the certificate under the Act.

Mr. Isaacs, on behalf of the Board to show cause, argued that there is nothing in the Act which imposes a duty on the Board to grant a certificate; it is discretionary with them. Where the Legislature intended to impose a mandate on the Board it has done so in express terms—*e.g.*, Section 11 provides that “The Board shall, from time to time, cause the names of all persons, certified by the Board as duly qualified for registration as registered pharmaceutical chemists, to be registered, etc.”, but the Act nowhere provides that in any given case an applicant shall be entitled as of right to a certificate. Section 18 is merely restrictive, and negative words are used, which have only the effect of limiting the Board’s power, so that the Board cannot give a certificate until at least the conditions mentioned in that section have been fulfilled. The Board is elected from the body of registered chemists, and is intended to protect the public. To enable it to do so it must be entitled to take into consideration the sanity of an applicant and other matters necessary for the public safety. Under the words of the section an applicant might have been an assistant at an age when it was impossible to have obtained any proper knowledge of the business, and he might afterwards, at any distance of time, provided he was twenty-one years of age, apply to the Board, and, if the Board had no discretion, he would be necessarily registered. Under the concluding words of the section a person is entitled to be registered if he holds a certificate of qualification, so that, if a person who can bring himself under Clause II. of Section 18 is entitled as of right to a certificate, the Board would be bound to register him as a chemist, although he might have been, to the knowledge of the Board, guilty of improper practice in the sale of noxious drugs, or was a drunkard. The Board has clearly a discretion, and the Court will not interfere with the exercise of that discretion.

His Honour delivered the following decision:—The interpretation of this section is very difficult, but it is unnecessary to place any interpretation upon it, as this is probably the last case which will arise under it. The rule will be made absolute with costs.

Notes on British Society Meetings.

MR. MICHAEL CARTEIGHE has been re-elected President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain; Mr. Thomas Preston Gostling is vice-president (*vice* Mr. Atkins); Mr. John Robbins was re-elected treasurer; Mr. Richard Breinbridge was re-appointed secretary and registrar; and Dr. B. H. Paul and Mr. F. Passmore retain their positions as editor and sub-editor of the *Pharmaceutical Journal*.

A PAPER by Mr. J. F. Brown, “Syrup. Ferri Iodidi,” was presented at a recent meeting of the Dover Chemists’ Association. Mr. Brown contended that instead of boiling the solution of iodide of iron with a portion of the syrup, with a view to the conversion of its sugar into glucose, to aid in the preservation of the ferrous syrup (according to the new B.P.)—there was a practical convenience in adding the glucose already formed. “Since glycerine is so excellent a preservative, I used the compound which forms such a capital excipient, viz.—Glucose syrup, 12 parts; glycerine, 4 parts; water, 1 part—all by weight. Working formula:—Diluted glucose syrup, 4oz. (pond.); white sugar, 1½lb.; distilled water, 12oz. Dissolve and strain into a bottle marked at 31 fl. oz. Shake together in a flask or stoppered bottle—bright iron wire, 3oz.; iodine, 2oz.;

distilled water, 3oz. When the reaction is complete let the vessel stand for two minutes in a water-bath at 212° F., and then filter contents into the syrup in the bottle. When cool make up the measure, if necessary, with distilled water, and shake well. Specific gravity 1·360."

THE Sheffield Pharmaceutical Society and Chemists' Society at the annual general meeting presented to Mr. Norman S. Smith an illuminated address and shelf of scientific books, on the occasion of his leaving Sheffield. Mr. Smith's good offices in the organisation of the junior association were very complimentarily referred to. The annual report and financial statement were considered of a satisfactory character, the establishment of the Sheffield School of Pharmacy being a matter upon which the council specially congratulated the members. The attendances at the classes on *materia medica*, botany, and theoretical and practical chemistry were reported to have been thoroughly satisfactory.

AT a general meeting of the Liverpool Chemists' Association, 8th April, Mr. Henry Dauber, jun. read a very interesting paper on "Yerba" (*Ilex Paraguayensis*), the national "tea" of South America. The reader gave a lengthy account of the cultivation and preparation of the plant, remarking:—"Yerba has a very sustaining effect on persons who constantly drink its infusion. Conflicting opinions, however, respecting its effects on the constitution are held by eminent men. M. Sellieu recommends Paraguay tea as being pleasanter to the taste and less injurious to health than China tea, whilst Professor Bentley affirms it to be more exciting, and when taken to excess to produce a kind of intoxication. It may nevertheless be said that the sober portion of the inhabitants of South American republics cherishes yerba as the great natural beverage, deriving nutriment and the greatest comfort from its use. It has been attempted to introduce yerba into this country, but, probably owing to the want of knowledge as to its preparation, the attempt has, so far, not been successful. I think it can be safely predicted that, were it brought systematically before the British public, it would soon become a favourite beverage, and prove a valuable rival to other imported teas."

Notes from Foreign Journals.

IN America medical women are numbered not by tens, but by hundreds, and their practice both among private patients and in hospitals is of the most extensive kind. In 1881 no less than 470 women were known to have taken medical degrees (exclusive of graduates of eclectic and homœopathic schools), and in reply to circulars of inquiry, rather more than 300 full answers were received, and some information obtained about 130 more. Of these 430 women 390 are found to be engaged in active practice. These women are scattered over 26 States of the Union, New York, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts having the largest number.

A COMPANY has recently been floated in London, entitled the Ammoniaphone Company, with a capital of £100,000 in £5 shares. The object of the company is to purchase the American, Canadian, Australian, and foreign ammoniaphone business of the Medical Battery Company, for the manufacture and sale of the ammoniaphone and other apparatus.

WITH a view of obtaining a reliable opinion from the pharmacists of Great Britain as to whether the opinion of the profession favoured the abolition of the patent medicine duty, which had been said to be generally regarded as oppressive, the *British and Colonial Druggist* recently invited expressions of views from those interested. A summary of the opinions is now published, and it shows that the majority uphold the retention of the duty.

TOBACCO blindness is becoming a common affliction. At present there are several persons under treatment for it at one London hospital. It first takes the form of colour blindness, the sufferers who have smoked themselves into this condition being quite unable to distinguish the colour of a piece of red cloth held up before them. Sometimes the victim loses his sight altogether. Although smoking is to a large extent the cause of the malady, heavy drinking is also partly responsible.

THE *British and Colonial Druggist* of 26th June devotes an editorial to "Colonial Conferences," having reference to the series of conferences arranged for between the leading pharmacists and therapeutists of the old country and the colonial exhibitors of plants and drug products now visiting London in connection with the Indo-Colonial Exhibition. Our esteemed contemporary makes vigorous complaint of the fact that the conferencees, up to the date mentioned, had only related to the exhibits in the Indian Court, and urges that all the colonies should be invited to take part.

SIR SAMUEL DAVENPORT has an interesting note upon "The Olive in South Australia" in the *British and Colonial Druggist*. Says the worthy knight:—"The high prizes uniformly acquired at international and intercolonial exhibitions in different quarters of the globe, even in an old and eminent olive country like France, have confirmed the highest views held of the olive and its oil as a local production. In a little brochure on "Olive Culture," published, in 1877, at the printing office of the *South Australian Advertiser* newspaper, is the assertion that 'No oil that has ever been sent into the market surpasses in quality, lucidity, and creamy delicateness of moist delicious flavour the oil that is now produced on the Adelaide plains.' . . . There being many varieties of cultivated olives whose merits for quantity or quality of oil differ, or whose rank is held in degrees of estimation relatively to national tastes, South Australia has now become rich in the possession of olive stocks of reputation secured to or from Malaga, Gibraltar, and Lisbon; from Cannes, Nice, and South of France, *via* Marseilles; and from Florence and Bari, *via* Brindisi. Some skilled French pruners of the olive have also been introduced, whose labours, and the instruction they must impart to others, cannot but prove of great advantage to the future cultivation and production of the olive. . . . The calcareous nature of the soils around Adelaide, and the warm and dry climate, assist in bringing the fruit of the olive, as of the vine, to remarkable perfection; whilst, for the benefit of the labourers, as well as of the farmers, the olive harvest conveniently follows on the vintage, as the vintage follows on the harvest times of wheat and other grains."

A LATE attempt of a Cape Town legislator to introduce a Poisons Bill provoked the indignation of local pharmacists, and the senator was induced to withdraw the measure, it being agreed that a Pharmaceutical Society should be formed that would be representative, and capable of dealing with the subject. At the meeting at which this was brought about the Colonial Medical Board was vigorously condemned as an examining body for pharmacists, and it was agreed to make representations for its reconstitution, so that the examinations should be conducted by practical pharmacists.

THE *Pharmaceutical Journal* of 29th May publishes a letter by Mr. Percy Wells on "Vinum Ipecacuanhae," which will be viewed with interest by readers of Mr. Blackett's recent paper on the same subject:—"While forbearing to make any addition to the comment on the tiresome and roundabout process of the new *Pharmacopædia*, since the recent correspondence in the *Journal* shows that it is generally unsatisfactory, I trust to show in a few words that the subject is not quite exhausted, notwithstanding all that has been written upon it. I may

remark that, knowing emetine was soluble in acetic acid, I hoped to find that it would be extracted and held in suspension by wine with a large excess of tartaric or citric acids. In this, however, I was disappointed ; for, although my preparation, after maceration, remained apparently stable for a few days, deposition commenced and continued until the preparation was, in my opinion, practically useless. For over two years I have been experimenting on this difficult preparation, and I am happy to say I have succeeded perfectly, and I now give your readers the benefit of the result. My process, in making one gallon, is to coarsely powder 8 ounces of ipecacuanha root and macerate it in 64 fluid ounces of rectified spirit 60 o.p. for one week, shaking several times during each day. This produces a tincture of a fine sherry colour when filtered, and any slight loss is made up by percolating sufficient spirit through the root on the filter to make up 64 fluid ounces. I now dissolve 8 drachms (480 grains) either of tartaric or citric acids in 96 fluid ounces of good pale sherry, and to this I add the tincture of ipecacuanha, as above. Directly this is done a white, frothy substance appears on the surface, but on standing for a few hours it is deposited at the bottom of the vessel in the shape of very fine crystals. However, I do not wait for this as a rule, but at once proceed to filter. It takes some little time before the liquid comes through perfectly bright, but when it does so the result is a brilliant preparation. The crystalline deposit on the filter has been carefully examined, and found to consist mainly, if not entirely, of acid tartrate of potassium, without a particle of emetine, while the vin. ipecac., when tested for that alkaloid, shows that it is all held in permanent solution. It may be objected to this process that it is not, in the strict sense of the term, vin. ipecac., but that it partakes more of the character of a proof spirit tincture. A satisfactory tincture, however, cannot be made with proof spirit only, and this would not be accepted by the public generally as vin. ipecac. I accompany this with two samples, that labelled No. 1 containing tartaric acid, having been made a long time ; whilst that labelled No. 2, containing citric acid, is of more recent manufacture. I would add one word of caution, and that is not to bring the accidulated wine into contact with the root, for if this is done a decomposing product will eventually be the result." Remarks the Ed. *Ph. J.* :—"The appearance of the two samples referred to is all that can be desired."

SIR DYCE DUCKWORTH has been elected upon the Pharmacopœia Committee, vice Sir Hy. Pitman, resigned.

THE *Scientific American* says :—"There are not nearly as many secrets in hand treatment as people imagine. A little ammonia or borax in the water you wash your hands with, and that water just lukewarm, will keep the skin clean and soft. A little oatmeal mixed with the water will whiten the hands. Many people use glycerine on their hands when they go to bed, wearing gloves to keep the bedding clean ; but glycerine does not agree with every one. It makes some skins harsh and red. These people should rub their hands with dry oatmeal and wear gloves in bed. The best preparation for the hands at night is white of egg with a grain of alum dissolved in it. Quacks have a fancy name for it ; but all can make it and spread it over their hands, and the job is done. They also make the Roman toilet paste. It is merely white of egg, barley flour, and honey. They say it was used by the Romans in olden time. Any way, it is a first-rate thing ; but it is a sticky sort of stuff to use, and does not do the work any better than oatmeal. The roughest and hardest hands can be made soft and white in a month's time by doctoring them a little at bed time, and all the tools you need are a nail brush, a bottle of ammonia, a box of powdered borax, and a little fine white sand to rub the stains off, or a cut of lemon, which will do even better."

NINETEEN thousand out of the 20,000 copies of the last edition of the British Pharmacopœia having been sold, a re-issue has been ordered. The cost of production of the last edition is stated at £2713 8s. 5d., and the receipts at £3534 13s. 7d., leaving a balance in hand of £821 5s. 2d.

THE *Pharmaceutical Journal and Transactions* of 3rd July publishes the paper on "The Indigenous Vegetation of Australia, with special reference to the Eucalypti," read by Mr. Joseph Bosisto, M.P., at one of the conferences at the Indo-Colonial Exhibition on 28th June.

THE *Pharmaceutical Journal* of 19th June gives pride of place to an editorial on our "Proposed Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference." The article commences:—"Those pharmacists who had the pleasant privilege of listening to the earnest words spoken by Mr. Joseph Bosisto, when acknowledging a toast at the recent annual dinner of the members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and their friends, will remember how favourable an account he was able to give of the progress of organised pharmacy in Victoria during the last few years. Scarcely a decade has elapsed since, in 1876, the first legislation on pharmacy in that colony took place, but that time has sufficed under its influence to evolve among other things a school of pharmacy affiliated to a university, and handsomely subsidised by the legislature. About the same time New South Wales obtained a Poisons Act, and of the other Australasian colonies New Zealand followed with a Pharmacy Act in 1880, and Queensland in 1881. Western Australia apparently has not yet got beyond a Poisons Act, under which the sale of certain scheduled poisons is limited to persons licensed by the police magistrates, and we believe that a similar condition obtains in South Australia, whilst in Tasmania the pharmacists are just now endeavouring to promote legislation. Although, however, the existing Pharmacy Acts resemble one another in many respects, and are all more or less based upon the Great Britain Act of 1868, there are points of difference which are also capable of being intensified by the manner in which the provisions are carried out. When, therefore, after a time, the passage from one colony to another of persons possessing pharmaceutical qualifications under these Acts raised the question as to whether and how far a certificate or diploma could be made recognisable by pharmacy boards other than that by which it was issued, it became evident that the answer would depend very much upon the possibility of an arrangement being made as to the adoption of a uniform standard in the various examinations." A history of the endeavours which have been made to bring about a conference of the colonies is then given, and the article concludes:—"It will be seen that these propositions fairly cover all the topics upon which an agreement appears necessary, and if the conference be as large and representative as its promoters anticipate, and is able to come to an agreement on the essential points, it can hardly fail to have an important and beneficial influence on the future of pharmacy at the antipodes. In this country, too, we shall wait with interest for the result, since, notwithstanding the distance which separates Australasia from the home country, the aspirations of pharmacists there and here are identical and their interests are closely allied."

URINE-TESTING is, and very properly, receiving considerable attention just now; few indications are of more importance in diagnosis. According to L. Jolly (*Journ. de Pharm. et de Chem.*), if urine be mixed with about 10 per cent. of Fehling's solution, and boiled, the following are the indications to be noted:—If fluid remains clear and blue, the secretion is healthy. Decolorisation, with light flocculent ppt., shows presence of a peptone. Grape sugar is shown as the liquid changes to an orange tint with deep orange ppt. With equal parts of urine and Fehling's sol. the mixture turns green if excess of uric acid or urates be present, and the proportion of phosphoric acid is evidenced by a slight or abundant

precipitate. Acetone in urine, etc., is readily detected by Chantard's process, to which I add certain precautionary details which seem to be expedient. Dissolve a little acetate of rosaniline (Crawshaw's "Crystal" magenta answers very well) in distilled water, so that a fluid is obtained whose depth of colour is about equal to that of good burgundy. Shortly—say not more than a fortnight—before this is likely to be wanted, decolorise a little by passing just enough gaseous and well-washed sulphurous acid through it for the purpose. Into 3j. of the urine at 80°—90° F. let one drop of the liquid fall. Even a small quantity of acetone present will cause the development of a violent tint, either instantly or within five minutes. Should no result accrue, distil some of the urine, and collect the first 10 per cent. which comes over, separately. Apply the test just described to the distillate, as in this way $\frac{1}{280000}$ th part of acetone (Paracelsus) may be detected with ease.—"Paracelsus," in *British and Colonial Druggist*.

New South Wales.

PHARMACY BOARD OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

A MEETING of the Pharmacy Board of New South Wales was held at the offices of the Board, Phillip-street, Sydney, on Wednesday, the 3rd August.

Present: Messrs. Larmer, Abraham, Sadler, Bozon, Melhuish, M'Carthy, Mayne, and the secretary (Mr. Pinhey).

Mr. Larmer occupied the chair.

Mr. H. Shillinglaw (the secretary of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria) was present by appointment to lay before the Board certain proposals as to the reciprocity in registration qualifications between the two colonies.

The meeting having decided to hear the propositions, Mr. Shillinglaw said that he was instructed, in the first place, to lay before the Board a copy of the Amended Pharmacy Act of Victoria of 1885, and to point out that under the amended statute the Board had been granted power to register any person holding the qualifications required by Section 18, Sub-sections 1 and 2, of the Act, a power they did not possess under the Pharmacy Act of 1876. He was instructed to say that the Board desired to place the most liberal construction the law would allow on these sections, and that they would be prepared to place on the "Victorian Pharmaceutical Register" the names of any persons furnishing the statutory evidence required.

Mr. H. Sadler said it appeared to him a very simple question. The Pharmacy Board of Victoria had the power to register, under their amended Act, any person who was in business, or an assistant, in New South Wales before a certain date, and that they were willing to exercise that power provided the New South Wales Board granted a similar concession. He thought the question required no discussion, as it commended itself to them all.

Mr. Bozon asked if it would be necessary to reside in Victoria to entitle the person to registration.

Mr. Shillinglaw stated that the Board had no power to register persons not resident in Victoria.

Mr. Bozon—Have the Board power to register at once, on becoming domiciled in Victoria, any person possessing the qualifications under Section 18, Sub-sections 1 and 2? He understood that there were several applicants for registration from New South Wales; was that so?

Mr. Shillinglaw—Yes; there were several applicants pending the result of these overtures.

Mr. Mayne asked that the names of the applicants might be mentioned.

Mr. Shillinglaw stated that there was no reason why the names should not be given, although it was not desirable they should be made public.

Messrs. Abraham, Melhuish, and M'Carthy agreed with the remarks of Mr. Sadler that the matter required no discussion; they were granting only what they received.

Mr. Sadler said, in order to test the feeling of the meeting, he would move—"That the Pharmacy Board of New South Wales are willing to grant certificates under 40 Vic., No. 9, to those persons who have been in business as chemists and druggists in Victoria prior to January, 1877, on condition that the Victorian Pharmacy Board recognises in an equal degree the certificates of the said New South Wales Board."

The resolution—which was seconded by Mr. Melhuish—was written out by the secretary, and read by the chairman.

Mr. Mayne proposed an amendment—"That the matter be postponed for further discussion."

Seconded by Mr. Bozon.

Mr. Sadler pressed for a vote to be taken at once.

The chairman then read the resolution as proposed by Mr. Sadler, which was put and carried, Messrs. Sadler, Abraham, M'Carthy, and Melhuish voting for it, and Messrs. Bozon and Mayne against. The chairman did not vote.

The chairman desired to know how it was proposed to deal with persons who had passed examinations in New South Wales.

Mr. Shillinglaw stated that he was instructed to furnish the fullest details of the nature and subjects of the examinations required under the Pharmacy Act of Victoria, and that the Board would reasonably ask similar details as to the New South Wales examinations to be submitted to them. The three papers he submitted to the meeting were a fair sample of the whole course, from the preliminary examination to the final examination in practical pharmacy, giving all the questions and answers.

A conversational discussion then ensued, during which reference was made to the proposed Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference. Reference to this matter was ruled out of order, as the meeting was sitting as the Pharmacy Board, and not as the Pharmaceutical Society. The meeting shortly after terminated, with the understanding that a special meeting should be held on Friday, the 13th August, to determine whether delegates should be sent from New South Wales to the Conference.

We since learn by telegram that the special meeting was held on the 13th August, and that, on the motion of Mr. M'Carthy, it was resolved that New South Wales should be represented at the Conference, provided that at least two-thirds of the Australasian colonies send representatives, and that Messrs. Melhuish and Mayne be appointed delegates from New South Wales.

Parliament has been dealing with several matters of considerable interest to pharmacists of this colony. On the 13th ultimo Mr. Burns moved for leave to bring in a bill to enable William Larmer, W. Pratt, W. H. M'Carthy, B. F. Bozon, J. Mayne, W. Parker, and A. J. Watt to form a company, known as the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales, into a body corporate by the style and title aforesaid, with perpetual succession and a common seal; with power to sue and be sued, and to acquire and hold property; to examine and decide upon the admission and rejection of members, and to grant diplomas to qualified persons, and to define the liability of members of the aforesaid body corporate. The motion was carried, and the bill was brought in and read for the first time.

On the 15th ultimo Mr. Burns moved—1. "That the Pharmaceutical Society Incorporation Act be referred to a select committee, with power to send for persons and papers, for consideration and report. 2. That such committee consist of Mr. Bull, Dr. Ross, Dr. Wilkinson, Dr. Tarrant, Messrs. Day, Burdekin, Barbour, Gormley, Kethel, and the mover." The motion was agreed to; and on the 11th inst. Mr. Burns brought up the report of the select committee, and the documents were ordered to be printed. The third reading of the Cremation Bill was agreed to in the Legislative Council, the division showing—ayes, 13; noes, 7; and was transmitted to the Assembly.

There are signs of a revived interest in the Health Bill, long promised to the colony. This Act has been shelved somewhat in the scramble for office, but gross cases of food adulteration are so continually being brought to light that the necessity for vigorous legislation has become urgently necessary.

In the Supreme Court last month, the proprietors of Siegert's "Angostura Bitters" applied for an injunction to restrain Thos. R. Allt and Wm. H. Tulloh, trading as Allt and Co., from using the word "Angostura" on their labels in colourable imitation of the plaintiffs' registered trade mark. According to the plaintiffs' statement, they are carrying on business in Port of Spain, Island of Trinidad, as successors in business of the father, Dr. Siegert, who for many years manufactured at Angostura (in Venezuela) the compound known as "Angostura Bitters." He removed from Angostura, but continued to manufacture the compound from his original recipe. Some years ago the plaintiffs devised and adopted as a distinguishing mark of their manufacture a certain label, which was duly registered in New South Wales, on 18th September, 1885, under the Trade Marks Act of 1865. Notwithstanding this, the defendants (Messrs. Allt and Co., of Sydney) had in their possession, and had sold, a certain fluid compound purporting to be Angostura Bitters, wrapped in labels bearing a close resemblance to, and being a colourable imitation of, the plaintiffs' registered label, but differing materially in taste and quality from that made by the plaintiffs, being of inferior quality, and sold at a much lower price. It was claimed that the imitation of the plaintiffs' label and the use of the words "Angostura Bitters" were calculated to mislead; and that the defendants thereby wrongfully realised profits, to the loss of the plaintiffs, which the plaintiffs charged the defendants ought to account for to them. They accordingly prayed for an injunction and an account. This state of facts was not disputed; indeed, the defendants only appeared to consent to any decree which his Honour might make. A perpetual injunction was accordingly granted, and an account ordered; defendants to pay the profits from the spurious article to the plaintiffs, and to pay all costs.

At Marrickville, on 21st July, Henry S. Gilchrist, employed at the Sydney Mint, was asked for a settlement of accounts by a deputation from a Lodge of Oddfellows, for which he was treasurer. Retiring from the room, he was subsequently found in an insensible condition. Mr. Robert G. Boretton, chemist, having been called in, sent for Dr. Watson, who found the man dead. A piece of cyanide of potassium having been found in his pocket, it was concluded that he had poisoned himself, and at the inquest the jury gave a verdict to that effect.

A married woman named Elizabeth Blanche Kent died recently under somewhat peculiar circumstances. It transpired at the inquest that traces of laudanum were found in the stomach of the deceased, her death being attributed to narcotic poisoning. A servant in the house stated that she found a bottle containing laudanum amongst some rubbish in a back room. Mr. Kent, who was present when the discovery was made, explained that the laudanum was used by the deceased for outward application for rheumatism. He directed the

servant to throw the bottle away, so that no one should get hold of it. The deceased told the servant on one occasion that she used laudanum for rheumatism. Just before the death of Mrs. Kent the symptoms of poisoning were distinct, and the medical man would have nothing to do with the case. The deceased denied having taken poison. The inquest has been adjourned to allow of further inquiries, and a search for the bottle of laudanum, which the servant said she threw into a cesspit.

The proposal to place a duty of 20s. per lb. on opium gave rise to some discussion in the Legislative Council on the evils arising from opium smoking among the Chinese in the colony, and some members urged that the duty should be made prohibitive. It was pointed out, however, that a prohibitive duty would be useless unless the same course were taken by the other colonies. The revenue derived from the duty on this drug in 1884, which was the latest year for which Sir Patrick Jennings had a return, was £20,413. The item passed.

A new wing is being added to the St. Vincent's Hospital, to accommodate seventy patients. The institution is capable at present of receiving only one hundred patients, and a new building is greatly needed.

At a meeting of the medical profession held in Newcastle on the 14th July, a resolution was passed affirming it to be the duty of the medical profession to take the initiative in some scheme of sanitary reform for the city and district, and preliminary steps were taken to form a sanitary association for the amelioration of the sources of preventible disease and the maintenance of public hygiene.

The Senate of the Sydney University has decided to appoint a lecturer in physiological medicine, his duties to commence in Michaelmas term.

On the invitation of a number of the leading Sydney pharmacists, Mr. Shillinglaw was taken, on the 31st of July last, for a trip round Sydney Harbour. A start was made shortly after two o'clock from Circular Quay, some thirty gentlemen being on board. The day being beautifully fine, the trip was most enjoyable, and was further enhanced by the presence of an excellent band of music. After visiting some of the most charming spots in the harbour, the engines were stopped, and Mr. J. S. Abraham invited the gentlemen present to join with him in drinking the health of their guest. During his speech, Mr. Abraham said many kind things of the very friendly spirit shown by Victoria, which, he trusted, would meet with a reciprocal response in New South Wales. He also spoke of the great benefits likely to result from the Conference to be held in Melbourne in October, 1886, and at which he hoped to be present. The toast was drank in a very cordial manner. Mr. Shillinglaw briefly responded, thanking them for the very kind and hospitable manner in which they had received him in Sydney.

The establishment of a number of Schools of Mines in the large centres of population, as well as the development of the silver mines of the colony, is causing a demand for skilled labour, and also for the services of assayers. The formation of the Schools of Mines has been entrusted to the Board of Technical Education, and several new members have been added to this Board who are known to be experts in mining matters. It is understood that only men with high qualifications will be accepted for any of the appointments.

On the 3rd inst. Mr. Garvan moved in the Legislative Assembly—"That the House resolve itself into a committee of the whole to consider the expediency of introducing a bill to remodel the law relating to the protection of inventions and the registration of designs." The object sought was to increase the facility of obtaining a patent, and to grant protection to persons during the time that they are

conducting their investigations. It was complained that much needless litigation was the result of the present Act and its administration. The bill would moderate the power of the Patent Office, and provide for an appeal against its decisions to a judge, and would lessen the cost to the patentees. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. S. J. Parke has purchased the business recently carried on by the late Mr. L. B. Bush, Summer Hills, Sydney. Mr. Parke has had experience extending over ten years in the leading pharmacies of Sydney, including those of Messrs. F. Senior and J. S. Abraham and Mr. H. Sadler.

Among the patents worthy of notice granted during the past month was one for an improved method of tapping vessels containing liquids, granted to D. McGregor, of Moss Vale. It is especially intended for kerosene tins, oil drums, and chemists' vessels.

The old established business of Mr. Mitchell in King-street has just changed hands, his successor being Mr. Rignold, late of Bega.

Mr. Walter Jones has opened a pharmacy in George-street West.

Mr. R. Matthews has removed to Junee Junction, where he has started a new business.

Mr. Cosmo Newberry has been on a visit to Sydney on a mission from the Central Board of Health, Melbourne.

Mr. F. Wright delivered two very instructive lectures at the Technical College Hall, Sydney, during the past month on "Corrosive Poisons."

Mr. A. J. Watt, chemist, of George-street, Sydney, has resigned his positions as member of the Pharmaceutical Council and of the Pharmacy Board of New South Wales.

The firm of Lane, Tiffany and Co., of No. 6 Bligh-street, Sydney, has been dissolved by mutual consent, and the business will in future be carried on by Mr. W. H. H. Lane, under the style of W. H. H. Lane and Co.

Mr. Edwin Quayle, who, we are pleased to learn, has been elected a member of the Royal Society of New South Wales, still continues his weekly lectures on pharmacy, *materia medica*, and chemistry at the Pharmaceutical Society's rooms, and great interest appears to be manifested by those attending them. The society has also granted the free use of its library to the students attending these lectures and the usual classes. This is very encouraging, and should certainly be an additional incentive to work and progress on the part of the students, to whom, moreover, these lectures and classes are also free. The fourth lecture of the course was delivered by Mr. Quayle on Thursday evening, the 15th July, the subject being "Dispensing." The lecturer fully explained the numerous precautions to be observed, and the various points to be attended to, in the dispensing of the different forms of magistral formulæ, practically illustrating the manner in which it is most desirable that drugs should be dispensed. The utmost care and exactness in the weighing of solids and the measurement of fluids was insisted upon, the lecturer pointing out in this connection that the scales should be accurate, and kept perfectly clean, and that the measure-glasses should be similarly graduated on both sides. In measuring liquids the glass should be so held that the liquid is on a level with the eye, and the general surface of the liquid is to be brought up to the graduation indicating the quantity required. The long, narrow, finely-graduated and partially-enamelled measure-glasses were alluded to as a considerable improvement on the common form of measure-glasses, more especially for the measurement of minims; and it was also shown that the expressions "drops" and "minims" should not be understood to be synonymous, since a fluid drachm of distilled water is equivalent to about 45 drops, whereas a fluid drachm of the tincture of opium

will yield about 120 drops. The subject of the incompatibility of drugs was then exhaustively dealt with under the heads of chemical, pharmaceutical, and physiological incompatibility. A number of important points in connection with the incompatibility of drugs were fully gone into, the conclusion of the subject dealing with the laws of chemical incompatibility, &c., being left over for consideration at the next lecture.

It was announced that, in consequence of the cordial support given by the students—some twenty having already been enrolled for the course of lectures, and a similar number for the courses in practical pharmacy and chemistry—it had been decided to grant certificates of attendance as regards the lectures, and similar certificates for the practical classes. At the end of the session an examination would be held in each branch, and standard works in chemistry, pharmacology, &c., would be awarded thereon. At the conclusion of the lecture the classes in practical pharmacy and chemistry met in the new laboratory, which is now in a fair way towards completion, as is also the *materia medica museum*.

A cablegram from London announces that Mr. Frederick W. Hall, second son of Mr. Frederick Hall, of Waverley, has passed the examination and taken first prize at Guy's Hospital for medical students in their first year. It may be remembered that last year, after passing the London University Preliminary Science Examination with honours, Mr. Hall carried off the Open Entrance Science Scholarship for 125 guineas.

The usual monthly meeting of the Horticultural Society of New South Wales was held in the Technical College Hall, Pitt-street, on Tuesday evening, 13th July. Mr. H. C. L. Anderson, M.A., presided, and there was a large attendance of members and the general public. According to invitation, a large number of plants, flowers, and other objects of horticultural interest were exhibited by members and others, the collection being a very fine one. Mr. F. Turner read a most instructive paper on "Economic Plants." The paper was illustrated by various exhibits, amongst which were the famous Venezuelan rain tree (*pether-colobium saman*), respecting the cultivation of which in this colony so much has been said of late, although experience teaches that it does not succeed further south than the 20th parallel of south latitude; seeds of *Duboisia Hopwoodii* (pitury of the natives), the leaves of which are used by the aborigines of Central Australia to poison emus, and are chewed by them as is tobacco by some Europeans; the seeds of *Trapa Beccornis* (a floating aquatic plant), used by the Chinese as an article of food under the name of "ling;" a fruit of *cogle marmelos* (called "bhel"), which, when ripe, has an exquisite flavour and perfume, and from the rind of which a fine yellow dye is prepared; a fruit of *Adamsonia Gregorii*, the cream of tartar tree, collected in the Kimberley district (the pulp of its fruit consisting of gum, starch, sugary matter, and malic acid, has an agreeable acid taste, and is peculiarly refreshing in sultry climates); the seeds of *Abrus precatorius*, which are employed in India as a standard weight (the weight of the famous Koh-i-noor diamond was ascertained in this way), and the roots of which are used much in the same way as we use liquorice root; a seed yielding a kind of vegetable ivory, the produce of a South Sea Island palm, called *Sagus amicarum*; and a fruit of *Hovenia dulcis* (the Chinese raisin), exhibited by Mr. Lindley. The paper, which evinced a considerable amount of horticultural knowledge, acquired by long study, was listened to throughout with marked attention, and at its close a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Turner, on the motion of Mr. L. Wooff, seconded by Mr. E. Mortimore, who both bore high testimony to the benefit they had derived from the reading of the paper, as did also Mr. J. H. Beatson. The chairman (Mr. Anderson), in tendering the vote of thanks to Mr.

Turner, also eulogised the paper, and spoke of the advisability of the Government establishing a Department of Agriculture, with a view of extending the knowledge of that branch of science throughout the community. With our varied soils and climate, he said, there were few plants, tropical or otherwise, which could not be cultivated, but farmers must first of all have instruction and encouragement.

An inquest was held at the Soudan Hotel, Lower George-street, upon the body of a miner named James Grant, who died at the Golden Age Hotel, under rather peculiar circumstances. It appears that the deceased left Melbourne on the 23rd of last month, having booked his passage there for Cambridge Gulf, intending to continue his journey from Sydney by the *Pathan*. From the evidence given, it seemed that he suffered very much from sea-sickness on the passage, and that he had not been feeling at all well. On arrival here he was advised to consult a chemist in the neighbourhood, but he said that he had some medicine with him. Mr. R. G. Dumas, a chemist, gave evidence to the effect that three young men, who were going to Kimberley, called at his shop, and asked him to come and see one of their mates, who was very ill. He went and saw him, but declined to prescribe. Later on he called again with some medicine prescribed for deceased by Dr. Philip, and on rousing him to give him a dose, found a bottle of methylated laudanum, which had been concealed beneath his pillow. (The bottle, which was a four ounce one, was produced.) He took the bottle away with him, and gave it to the police. Dr. Alexander Philip gave evidence to the effect that he was called to see deceased, and found him sitting on the edge of the bed coughing most distressingly. Deceased was then under the influence of drink, and declined to be examined, but from the objective symptoms Dr. Philip thought he was suffering from an acute form of broncho-pneumonia. There were no symptoms whatever of narcotic poisoning. On the following morning Sergeant M'Donald informed him that the man was dead. After having made a *post-mortem* examination, he was of opinion that the deceased died of sudden syncope of the heart, the consequence of fatty degeneration of that organ. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

A lad named Francis Randall, aged fifteen, residing at 27 Pelican-street, off Oxford-street, made an experiment which nearly cost him his life. While employed at the soda manufactory, corner of Stanley and Palmer streets, Woolloomooloo, he drank a cupful of "white spirits," which soon completely overpowered him. He was taken immediately to the Sydney Hospital, where he was treated for his malady.

FAREWELL DINNER TO DR. J. F. ELLIOTT.

The Sydney pharmacists gave a farewell dinner on Thursday evening, 29th July, at the German Club House, Castlereagh-street, to Dr. J. F. Elliott, prior to his departure to Europe. Mr. J. S. Abraham occupied the chair, and Mr. H. Sadler the vice-chair; most of the leading city and suburban pharmacists being present, the guest of the evening being on the right of the chairman, and Mr. H. Shillinglaw, the secretary of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, who was present by invitation, on his left. After an excellent dinner had been disposed of, the chairman proposed the toast of the evening, "Dr. J. F. Elliott." He (Mr. Abraham) felt proud when such men as Dr. Elliott left our shores to represent in different lands the commercial interests of our large firms. He was sure that the honour of the colony was safe in such hands. Many of them remembered the father of their guest and the prominent part that he took in the affairs of their profession. The name of Dr. Elliott, sen., would be long remembered by them, and he would not say that their guest would be better than his father was,

but he was sure that he would prove himself a worthy successor in his work in their midst, as well as abroad. He was sure that all had felt the effects of the happy, genial spirit that had ever marked Dr. Elliott's conduct towards them all, and he wished, and all would join with him in wishing, their guest and his wife a happy and a prosperous journey. The toast was drank with musical honours with great cheering. Dr. Elliott, in responding, said that the thought of parting from so many friends was quite painful to him, and he felt proud that he had won their confidence and esteem. The many happy hours that he had spent in the society of those that he saw that evening gathered to bid him adieu would inspire him with a greater desire than ever to serve his fellow-colonists and to uphold the honour of the land of his birth. Much as he respected those of other lands and nationalities, yet he was deeply attached to this colony, and as he journeyed through the countries of Europe he would often think of the kind friends that he had made among the pharmacists of New South Wales, and would never feel so happy as when he should be in the enjoyment of the privilege of proving himself worthy of all the kind things that they had been pleased to say concerning him.

Mr. T. B. Melhuish, in proposing "The Health of Mr. Harry Shillinglaw, the Registrar of the Board of Pharmacy of Victoria," referred to the excellent results that had taken place since the passing of the Pharmacy Act in that colony, and hoped that at no distant time they in New South Wales would be in a similar happy position; he understood that Mr. Shillinglaw's visit to Sydney was in connection with the proposed reciprocity of certificates between the colonies of New South Wales and Victoria, and he hoped that whatever proposals were submitted would be received in a harmonious and liberal spirit.

Mr. Shillinglaw, in responding, said he felt great pleasure at being present on so interesting an occasion. His mission in Sydney was to lay before the Pharmacy Board of New South Wales certain proposals as to the interchange of certificates of qualification between the two colonies, and he assured them that the proposals were made by the Pharmacy Board of Victoria in the most hearty and kindly spirit. For years past the Board had been doing all in its power to raise the status of pharmacy, and had so far succeeded as to make pharmacy a portion of the State education of the colony of Victoria, and its importance was fully recognised by the Government. The success of the Pharmacy Act had been in a great measure due to a few earnest workers, who had never lost sight of the one object.

The health of the ladies was proposed and duly honoured. During the evening several songs and recitations were delivered by gentlemen present, and a presentation of a piece of plate, suitably inscribed, was made to Mr. George Wells, of George-street. This was the gift of a few friends, who desired to express their appreciation of that gentleman's powers of entertaining them at social gatherings.

THE NEW SOUTH WALES MEDICAL ACT.

An esteemed Sydney correspondent, "M. A.," sends us an interesting letter against the N.S.W. Medical Amendment Act. The writer, naturally, goes dead against the bill, as at first proposed; and, but for the fact that we have already given emphasis to the same objections in our columns, and that the irritating clauses have since been withdrawn, we should have taken pleasure in publishing the letter *in extenso*. M. A. is particularly severe upon the late abortive attempt of a contemporary to imbue pharmacists with an admiration of the provisions of the measure referred to; and he utterly disagrees with the proposition that either the public or pharmacists would be benefited if the

latter were restricted to the sale of patent medicines and sundries, and the dispensing of prescriptions. Our correspondent even goes so far as to say that the person who declares that experienced pharmacists are not qualified to prescribe in cases of ordinary indisposition "has no knowledge of the class in whose interests he is supposed to be writing, since a knowledge of *materia medica* is indispensable to registration under the Pharmacy Act of N.S.W., and the pharmacist in the daily practice of his profession cannot fail to acquire an extensive knowledge of therapeutics." M. A. asks: "Who has a better opportunity of doing so?"

South Australia.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

THE monthly meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia was held in the society's room, King William-street, on Tuesday, 3rd August. Present: The president (Mr. Harrison) in the chair, and Messrs. Grundy, Woodman, Sowter, Poole, Porter, Long, Hill, Parker, Osborne, Duff, O'Connor, Young, Scammell, Cooper, Hutton, White, Smith, Gibbs, Symes, Wood, Parry, Evans, Patterson, Radcliffe, Main, Hollis. The minutes of last meeting having been adopted, the president read the rules of the society, which had undergone some alteration and revision at three special committee meetings, preparatory to publishing them in a pamphlet, together with a list of members, and other information respecting the society. It was proposed by Mr. Sowter, seconded by Mr. Smith—"That the rules be accepted as read, and printed." Carried.

Several applications for membership were received and dealt with, and the vice-president, in a brief speech, pointed out the desirability of applicants for admission to the society making a declaration before a J.P., stating their experience, &c. Accordingly he moved, and Mr. Long seconded—"That all applicants for admission to this society make an affidavit before a J.P. as to their experience, &c. A form of declaration to be prepared." Carried.

The vice-president also gave an outline of the preliminary examination which had lately taken place, and stated that the successful candidates were Messrs. Cooper, Fischer, and Cobbin, who passed in the following order:—Fischer, 1; Cobbin, 2; Cooper, 3. He considered the examination a highly satisfactory one.

The president then rose and briefly congratulated the members present on the interest shown in the society by the good attendance, also on the progress made. He remarked that there were now 105 members and associates; that the preliminary examination was an accomplished fact, and that, as a result of it, nine or ten youths were studying for the next one; that the influence of the society was being felt outside the colony, and that its success so far had been beyond the most sanguine expectations of those who first formed it.

The matter of the Pharmaceutical Conference in Melbourne was again discussed, and it was generally considered a very desirable thing that South Australia should be represented thereat, but, as none of the members present could conveniently leave Adelaide at the time appointed, it was decided that Mr. Fryer, who had recently left Adelaide for Melbourne, should be requested to undertake the duty. Mr. Smith therefore moved, and Mr. White seconded—"That Mr. Fryer be appointed honorary member, and written to, asking him to represent us at the forthcoming Conference." This terminated the meeting.

A brief notice of the more important rules mentioned in the above report may be of interest to your readers. They were passed at one of the earlier

meetings, but, as stated above, have undergone revision and alteration in order to make them more suitable to present requirements. The most noteworthy are those that refer to admission and examinations. At the foundation of the society it was decided to admit as members all those who were in business on their own account in South Australia, or as recognised managers, prior to 1st January, 1886, and all assistants, as associates, who were 21 years of age, and had been for four years engaged in practical pharmacy. This date was subsequently extended in order to admit a few procrastinating individuals whom the society, in its charity, did not wish to shut out. It was then felt by many to be somewhat of a hardship that those assistants who had been for many years connected with the trade, and who were thoroughly qualified, should be excluded from membership, and a special rule was passed admitting, during the first three months of the year, all those assistants who had been for ten years engaged in dispensing. But it is felt, now that these special cases have been provided for, that entry should be by examination only, and some of the most important rules passed at the above meeting provide that they only shall be eligible for membership who have passed the examination of a recognised Pharmaceutical Society or Pharmacy Board, and that on and after 1st September, 1886, all applicants desiring to become members or associates (presumably those who have not passed an examination elsewhere) must, to gain membership, pass the major examination, which also confers the title of pharmaceutical chemist, and can only obtain associateship by passing the minor. The subscription of members is fixed for the present at one guinea, and of associates at half a guinea, the entrance fee of each respectively at ten shillings and five shillings, and every applicant is expected to sign a written declaration stating his willingness to comply with the regulations of the society.

The office-bearers are fixed as: President, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer who, with three members, form a council for the management of the society's business. These are to be elected annually, and such election is to take place at the first general meeting in January each year. The members of the present council are Mr. Harrison, president; Mr. Grundy, vice-president; Mr. Main, hon. secretary; Mr. Poole, hon. treasurer; Messrs. Grummett, G. A. Parker, and White. The general meetings are to be held as heretofore on the first Tuesday, and the council meeting on the last Thursday in each month, and none but a member is deemed qualified to vote or nominate.

The examinations will certainly not err on the side of leniency, as they are to be a copy of those held in Great Britain. The preliminary is to take place half-yearly, and successful candidates are to be registered students of the society. The minor and major will be held as occasion requires. The fee for the preliminary is fixed at one guinea, for the minor, two guineas, and for the major, three guineas, half the fee to be returned to unsuccessful candidates in the case of the two latter examinations. The other rules relate to the management of meetings, election matters, &c., and are similar to those in general use.

Dr. Davies Thomas has returned from England, and has brought from Ceylon a collection of native curios, which he intends to divide between the public museum and the museum of economic botany.

Sir Henry and Lady Loch, with their two daughters, accompanied by his Honour the Chief Justice (the Chancellor), paid a visit to the University on Monday. The visitors, under the guidance of the Chancellor, were shown over the building, and took great interest in certain experiments in acoustics and electricity, which were shown by Professor Bragg. Professor Rennie received the vice-regal visitors in the chemical laboratory, and explained certain processes for extracting

sarsaparilla and for analysing water, on which he was engaged at the time. While passing the students' room, the visitors were suddenly greeted with three ringing cheers from the undergraduates present—a reception as gratifying as it was unexpected. Sir Henry Loch gracefully acknowledged the compliment, and the Chancellor presented Mr. Cecil Mead (the senior undergraduate present) to his Excellency.

Queensland.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

BRISBANE, 10th August.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND.

A MEETING of the members of the Pharmaceutical Society took place in Brisbane on Thursday evening, 29th July. There were present:—Mr. J. H. Fitzgibbon, vice-president, in the chair; Messrs. C. F. Yeo, L. C. Dunne, D. J. Clark, W. J. Costin, Ayscough, M'Leon, Watson, and K. T. Staiger, F.L.S. Mr. H. E. Miller, from Goondiwindi, attended as a visitor.

Considerable discussion took place on the subject of establishing a School of Pharmacy in Brisbane, this being a want that is severely felt by apprentices and assistants who are desirous of qualifying to pass the examinations of the Pharmacy Board. The meeting was unanimous in the opinion that early efforts should be made to secure this wished-for boon.

With regard to the preliminary examination it was considered the standard required should be similar to that passed by boys in the Normal School or State Schools to secure a Grammar School scholarship.

The important matter of securing a Poisons Act for Queensland was brought up, and it was decided that an effort should be made to secure, as early as possible, the passing of such an Act as is in force in Victoria. It is hoped that the measure will be introduced into the Legislative Council this session by the Hon. P. Macpherson. The administration of the Act could be relegated to the newly-appointed Pharmacy Board, so that there would be little or no expense to the colony.

Dr. J. O'Sullivan, who for many years was in practice in South Brisbane, and latterly in Fortitude Valley, died at his residence on Saturday, 31st July, from the effects of an overdose of morphia, which he had taken to procure sleep. Drs. Mullen and Byrne attended him during a short illness previously, and on his death gave a certificate; but the water police magistrate, Mr. Day, before whom an inquiry was held, ordered a *post mortem* examination. The contents of the stomach were forwarded to the Government analyst, Mr. Marr, for examination. Dr. O'Sullivan leaves a wife and two children.

A fatal case of poisoning occurred at the Roma Hospital on 8th July, when a patient named Dewar succumbed to a dose of common carbolic acid, administered by the wardsman—Henry Rowland—instead of a dose of black draught. All efforts to counteract the effects of the poison failed, and the unfortunate man died twelve hours after. Rowland stated that the carbolic acid was always kept in the lavatory, the black draught bottle being kept among the ordinary stock. The previous evening he had prepared deceased a dose to be taken on waking next morning. He found the carbolic acid bottle next morning where the draught bottle was usually placed, and gave the alarm. It appears that the bottles were similar in appearance, and were properly labelled, but the carbolic acid was not labelled poison; and it was stated in evidence that the bottle had been in use for nearly a year in the same state. At a subsequent

meeting of the committee the wardsman was censured, and a motion was adopted to the effect that it be an instruction to the contracting chemist—Mr. E. B. Cardell—that all liniments, poisons, and lotions of a poisonous nature be supplied in future in specially made bottles of a different nature to those used for ordinary medicines.

Referring to this case the Brisbane *Daily Observer* makes some suggestions, which, although you may not agree with them editorially, may prove of some interest to your readers. After some preliminary remarks, the article proceeds as follows:—

"In the Roma case it would seem that even the powerful and well-known odour of carbolic acid did not prevent the patient from swallowing it. Similar cases have occurred here several times owing to a mistake arising from the similarity of the bottles used to contain poisons and other drugs. Such mistakes should not occur, and, what is more, they should be rendered impossible. Three rules might be enforced which would, we think, render it well-nigh impossible for such a blunder to occur. Firstly, all poisons, or prescriptions containing poison of any kind, should be made up in bottles of a particular form, which could be discerned even in the dark by the sense of touch, and the usual label might be affixed as well. Secondly, in a chemist's shop all poisons should be kept quite apart from other drugs, so that there should be no risk of a careless assistant making any fatal mistake in the selling or dispensing of them to the public. Thirdly, chemists or their assistants should not make up several prescriptions at a time, and label the bottles afterwards. Each one, as completed, should be bottled and labelled before the next one is commenced. So long as bottles similar in shape and size are employed indiscriminately for both purposes, just so long will fatal accidents occur. Amongst the ignorant or the uneducated a label may not be read, or observed: through haste or agitation the wrong bottle may be seized, and the mistake only discovered when too late; but were poisons invariably sold in bottles of, say, a triangular form, a poison could scarcely be administered unintentionally."

Messrs. Thomason Bros., of South Brisbane, write in reference to these suggestions that they "always have used for poisonous preparations a blue bottle having six sides, three of which are fluted. The middle panel of these has the words raised on the glass, 'Not to be taken'; the other three sides are smooth for labelling purposes;" and they add the opinion that if such a bottle as this were always used the chance of an accident would be very much minimised.

At Blackall, recently, Edward Tarrant, a drover, poisoned himself by strychnine in a very determined manner, taking the poison, which he had carried about with him for some years, whilst surrounded by several acquaintances in the Royal Hotel, and afterwards refusing to take an emetic prepared by the doctor, who had been sent for.

I am informed by Mr. K. T. Staiger that he has recently received a good many inquiries from druggists and scientists in Europe relative to the various Australian botanical products that have been proved of medicinal value. By the last mail he was asked if he could supply 200lb. of dried *Duboisia* leaves, and smaller quantities of bitter-bark (*Alstonia*), "Sassafras," and also a quantity of dried *Euphorbia pilulifera*, or asthma herb. All these plants are to be found in plenty within ten miles of Brisbane, and yet they are not to be obtained commercially. Here is a field which some of your Queensland readers may find it to their advantage to cultivate.

The following facts relative to the recovery of a lad from the bite of a death adder are communicated to the *Queenslander* by Mr. P. M. Corbett, of Emerald Hills:—"Having seen reports re my son being bitten by a death

adder, I give you now an exact statement of the treatment he got until the doctor arrived. In about half a minute after being bitten, his mother tied a string above the bitten part, and gave him a third of a tea-cup of brandy with some water. I then scarified the bitten part, and applied warm water to induce bleeding; I then put more ligatures higher up on the bitten limb, and every ten minutes or so gave him more brandy and eight drops of ammonia. In three hours he had drunk over half a bottle of brandy with the ammonia, and showed no signs of intoxication. In about an hour after he was bitten he got a trembling in the bitten limb, and about two hours and a half after being bitten he vomited, and soon after got very drowsy. About this time Mr. Clarke, of Arthur Point Telegraph Station, arrived, and assisted me greatly in keeping the boy awake. Mr. Clarke also brought a bottle of rum, which was required very much, as my supply of brandy was exhausted, and the child could not drink the ammonia without spirits of some sort, as the ammonia has a very nauseous taste. The doctor arrived in five hours and a half after the boy was bitten; at this time we had great difficulty in keeping him awake; he tried to lie down, but soon after the doctor had given him fifteen drops of the strongest ammonia every ten minutes, and cut out the size of a sixpence of the bitten part, the child got lively and walked of his own accord, and lost all signs of drowsiness."

Unfortunately, there is no probability of the Queensland Pharmacy Board being represented at the coming Conference to be held at Melbourne this year. Mr. Taylor, the president of the Queensland Board, is unable to spare the time, having just returned from a lengthened trip throughout the North. But for this, no doubt, he would have been pleased to represent this colony.

There is not much business news to note, the most important item that I know of being the purchase by Mr. George Watkins of Mr. L. Carmichael's business in Queen-street. I have no doubt he will have your good wishes, and, through the journal, your good advice.

Brisbane is just now glutted with chemists' shops, there being no less than thirty within a radius of two miles, and among a population of 50,000 I hardly think they can all do, and, sooner or later, will not be surprised to see some shut. It is a pity more judgment is not used, and better advice given when opening shops.

I much regret to hear that two leading medical men at Ipswich have gone into partnership and opened a retail chemist's shop, under a competent manager. This naturally has given great dissatisfaction to the chemists, and it certainly seems not a little discouraging that they should be subjected to such competition. Another matter brought before my notice is that the wife of a doctor in South Brisbane dispenses her husband's prescriptions, and, as rumour has it, cares little whether the public knows or not.

Chemists in Queensland seem to have a mania for changing their businesses. I notice that Mr. L. Carmichael, probably the longest-established chemist in Queensland, and for over twenty-five years in Queen-street, has at last "given it best," and sold his business to Mr. W. J. Watkins, late dispenser to the Benevolent Asylum, Dimwich.

Mr. Harrop, of Maryborough, has purchased the business lately owned by Mr. F. Letters, at Gympie, and I hear that Mr. A. Brown, lately assistant with Mr. Carmichael, leaves Brisbane to manage the concern.

Mr. Rutler, late of Bundaberg, and more recently of Kangaroo Point, has again removed to Edward-street, Brisbane. In this out-of-the-way street there must be a good business done, judging by the number of pharmacies, there being three within forty yards of one another.

Mr. Thomas, late of Sydney, is now at the Croydon goldfield, North Queensland; and I hear that Mr. Wragge, of Boulia, is destined for the same place. If the field does not turn out well, our enterprising friends are likely to fare badly, as it takes a lot of money to get there.

Mr. Miller, of Goondiwindi, is at present in Brisbane and unable to proceed home owing to heavy floods. The district around the town is quite inundated.

Dr. Redmond, of Geraldton, is about leaving for fresh fields and pastures new.

Some time ago a company opened a patent medicine shop in Queen-street, but did not survive long. I notice another shop has been opened in South Brisbane, but, after the miserable collapse of the first, I cannot help thinking the present one will be a failure.

Business in Queensland is not as brisk this year as last. No doubt the lengthened drought has a lot to do with this. Some chemists inland, at places like Boulia, Winton, etc., have been unable to obtain supplies, as the carriers cannot travel. This, and the number of people leaving the districts, tends to make things slack. However, as nearly the whole of the colony has been visited with rain, I look now for brighter prospects.

New Zealand.

At Oamaru, on 7th July, a man named Leitch visited Messrs. Dodds and Co.'s shop, and, complaining of diarrhoea, purchased a bottle of chlorodyne, which, he being identified by a neighbour, and duly signing the poison book, was supplied, duly labelled poison, and with directions for use. Shortly afterwards he took the poison at a neighbouring hotel, and Drs. Fleming and De Latour, who were called in, were unable to save him. At the inquest the jury found that the deceased poisoned himself while in a state of temporary insanity, and the coroner added that Mr. Dodds had observed every possible precaution in the matter.

At Motueka, New Zealand, recently, a lady, while passing near some beehives, was stung on the face just below the eye by a bee. The sting was extracted, but twenty minutes after she was stung the lady was dead.

In Parliament, on 1st July, Sir George Grey asked the Government whether any steps could be taken under the Poisons Act to prosecute the person who sold wax vestas, or matches, by which the female child of W. P. Mackay (of Invercargill) was recently poisoned, the case containing matches not having been marked "Poison" as required by the Act. The Hon. Mr. Tole said he had looked into this matter and found no prosecution would lie under the Act.

It is announced that Mr. Owen, of Messrs. Aickin and Owen, Napier, has retired from the business, which will be carried on in future under the style of Aickin and Co. Mr. W. Powell, of Mount Eden-road, Auckland, has removed to new premises in Hobson-street.

A NEW disinfectant and germicide has been discovered by a Spanish professor (*Lancet*, 10th April, p. 709.) in benoxide of nitrogen. It had been observed that none of the workmen in an electrotyping establishment in Madrid died from cholera during the epidemics of 1834, 1859, and 1865, only those frequently absent from the factory being attacked at all. Further investigations demonstrated the fact that liquids from dead bodies on being treated with benoxide of nitrogen soon lost their peculiar smell, and remained free from micro-organisms. In thirty-five cases of cholera it is said to have been used successfully by a French naval surgeon.—*Pharmaceutical Journal*.

Correspondence.

THE INTERCOLONIAL PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

To the Editor of the Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.

SIR,—As mover of the resolution which was adopted by the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society inviting the various Australasian colonies to send delegates to Melbourne to discuss points on which it might be thought that uniformity of legislation and practice would be desirable in the interests of pharmacy, I am naturally anxious that the Conference (on which it most auspiciously appears all the invited colonies will be represented) should proceed harmoniously in its deliberations, and, further, that the trade throughout Australasia should accord its confidence to the delegates, and feel, not that any attempt is being made by one colony to aggrandise itself at the expense of the others, but that a *bonâ fide* effort is in progress to arrive at an understanding which shall be satisfactory to all by reason of its being based on a genuine desire to elevate, both educationally and commercially, the avocation in which we are engaged, rather than on the laws which happen to be in force in any one colony.

Those persons who have read and considered the wording of the initial resolution itself, and of the invitation which has been addressed to the various bodies, as well as the references to the matter which have appeared from time to time in your journal, need, of course, be in no doubt on this point, and I should not have thought it necessary to say a word now had I thought that all had done so, but, as a leading article and letter have appeared during the past month (I charitably trust attributable to lack of information) either throwing cold water on the scheme, or suggesting that the only object of the Conference is to force Victorian views upon the other colonies, to the exclusion of any proposals which may emanate from their delegates, I beg the favour of the use of your large circulation throughout the colonies to place before any in whom heartburnings might have been engendered by the perusal of these documents my personal disclaimer of any such motive in framing the resolution, and, further, to show that the inferences drawn are impossible of deduction from it, or from the invitation which was addressed by our society to the other colonies. This can scarcely be better done than by quoting the resolution, a copy of which was sent to each of the bodies invited to be represented:—

"That in order to bring about uniformity in the educational qualification required of pharmaceutical chemists in the various Australasian colonies, and to promote reciprocity in the recognition of certificates, and, further, to discuss any matter that may be brought forward on which it is considered that joint legislation or action may be desirable, a Conference, consisting of delegates from each colony, be invited to assemble in Melbourne in the month of October, 1886; and that a draft syllabus of such subjects proposed to be submitted for discussion by the said Conference be forwarded to the various bodies expected to be represented, requesting each to intimate any additional matter which it may wish to include."

It will be seen by reference to the portion italicised that each colony was expressly invited to add to the programme anything which might suggest itself, and this invitation was emphasised in the form of invitation, as follows:—"I am therefore to ask you to submit the proposition to the members of your Council, for their deliberation and suggestion, and to return to me their views on the subject, with any other matter you may wish included, not later than the 30th June next, together with names of the delegates, when the final programme will be issued." These quotations will show that the subjects

proposed to be submitted by Victoria have been offered for discussion in all the colonies interested, and that every effort has been made by this colony to induce the others to add any matters which might seem of importance to them. When I add that the delegates of the various bodies will all meet on an equal footing, elect their own chairman, and do their business in the manner which may seem best to the majority, I think any pharmacists who may now seriously consider the matter for the first time, or who may have been misled by the hysterical effusions penned by newspaper correspondents, will agree with me that the Conference will be as free from any undue influence on the part of Victoria as it would if held in New South Wales, Tasmania, or New Zealand.—I am, &c.,

H. T. TOMPSITT.

ANALYSIS OF HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICINES.

To the Editor of the Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.

SIR,—The subject of analysis having had controversy in the daily papers, and seeing a report by Mr. Johnson on the analysis of some homœopathic preparations, would you grant me space in your valued journal to inquire if Mr. Johnson, or any other subscriber, will favour me with an outline of a process for the analysis of these infinitesimals. I have failed to discover even traces of the supposed remedies, and have been led to suppose that the analysis of these quack remedies (?) was an impossibility, and was therefore considerably surprised to find Mr. Johnson certifying to the purity, and guaranteeing the strength, of the nostrums in question.—I am, sir, yours, &c.,

F. M. S.

Richmond, 9th August, 1886.

To the Editor of the Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.

SIR,—Can you inform me through your columns if a pharmaceutical chemist, holding all the certificates of the Pharmacy Board, would be compelled to pass the examinations in the same subjects before the Medical Board supposing he intended to study for his degree as doctor.—Yours truly,

PHARMACIST.

[The only certificate accepted in the medical course would be that of practical pharmacy.—ED. A.J.P.]

To the Editor of the Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.

SIR,—So much publicity having been given to the effects of an opiate administered to the late Mrs. Hicks, it may interest your readers to know the contents. The extreme simplicity of the dose will be at once seen:—R Chloral hydrat., gr x.; potass. bromid., gr x.; chlorodyne, m_{vii}; aquae, ad 3ss.; m F. Haust. Only one dose was given.

WILLIAM STEPHENS.

Brighton, 11th August, 1886.

THE irritating poison contained in the hairs of different species of the nettle is generally regarded to be formic acid in the free state. Professor G. Haberlandt, of Gratz, in an essay recently presented to the Academy of Natural Sciences, at Vienna, has shown that the irritation is produced by a poison, which is dissolved in the cell sap, and the behaviour of which proves it to be related to the formless ferment or enzymes.

New Remedies and Formulae.

FOR WATER-BRASH.—Powdered phosphate of zinc, 10 parts; calcined magnesia, 3 parts; powdered vanilla, 1 part. Mix. A teaspoonful in a wineglassful of water.—Dr. MONIN, in *L'Union Médicale*.

OLIVE OIL, as a menstruum for cocaine, was recommended by Dr. Andrews, of New York, at a meeting of the American Ophthalmological Society. By the plan of dissolving cocaine in oil, longer contact of the remedy is ensured, and a smaller quantity of it is required. Cocaine salts not being soluble in olive oil, the alkaloid should be used, only requiring a few minutes of gentle heating in a water-bath to dissolve it.

RINGWORM.—The following formulæ have been recommended for the cure of ringworm of the scalp:—1. To a drachm of calomel add one ounce of tincture of iodine. Allow to stand for a few days, frequently shaking. Paint the spot, and a clear margin beyond, with a camel's hair brush. 2. Thymol, 1 drachm; chloroform, 4 drachms; olive oil, best, sufficient for 2 ounces. Mix well. Paint with a camel's hair brush, having first cleansed the part well with soft soap and water. 3. An application of the 10 per cent. oleate of mercury, with the addition of one-seventh of acetic ether.

THROAT APPLICATION.—Dr. Tauber, of Ohio, recommends for painful deglutition of the ulcerative stage of tubercular laryngitis the following solution:—

Acidi carbolici	...	...	...	3iss.
Tinc. iodi	...	...	...	3ss.
Glycerini	...	...	...	3ij.

M. To be applied once or twice a day.

—*British Medical Journal*.

TEREBENE SMELLING SALTS.—The peculiar effect of terebene vapour, when inspired, in relieving hoarseness, and, when mixed with ammonia, of improving the voice generally, has led to the following formula being devised. Some members of a well-known school of music speak highly of its voice-developing powers:—

R	Terebena pur.	...	...	...	3ij.
Sp. Ammon. Aromat.	...	...	...	3jss.	
Chloroform	...	...	...	m	x.
Oil. Citronel.	...	...	...	m	tv.
Ess. Patchouli	...	...	...	gt	ij.
Ammon. Carb. (in No. 20 powder)		...	...	3	j.
Carmine Colouring	...	...	...	q	s.

Dissolve the citronella and patchouli in the terebene, adding the chloroform thereto; pour the mixture upon the powdered carbonate of ammonium, and, lastly, add the sal volatile, with which a sufficiency of cochineal colouring has previously been mixed. The object of this latter ingredient—which, of course, may be omitted if white “salts” be preferred—is merely to give this preparation a different appearance to the ordinary kind. These terebene salts when nicely put up in handsome bottles, with well-fitting stoppers, sell quickly, and should become very popular amongst clergymen, public speakers, and vocalists generally, as well as in private circles. Not only may they usefully replace the common “Preston” variety as an antidote to the effect of a close atmosphere, etc., but when inhaled for a few seconds at regular intervals for some time prior to speaking or singing they will be found to be quite as efficacious in enhancing the vocal powers as certain highly-priced and much vaunted appliances we wot of.—*British and Colonial Druggist*.

Miscellaneous Gleanings.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Sydney Morning Herald* states that pain killer is in constant use in Queensland as an intoxicant. "They go on the spree with it when the grog has run out, and I have lately been told it is also used for the same purpose in several parts of New South Wales. Some years ago," he adds, "in Melbourne, I called for a glass of square sarsaparilla, and was amazed to find I got quite stupid. I found out afterwards that about 28 per cent. of spirit and some opium were among its compositants, and it was no longer a fancy liquor of mine." The writer comments very strongly on the fact that patent medicines, some of them stupefying compounds, "which have a worse effect on the system than ordinary public-house grog," can be obtained by anyone either from his greengrocer or at the toy-shop.

THE *Australasian Medical Gazette* for June contains an interesting article by the Rev. W. G. Lawes on the "Customs among the Natives of New Guinea in sickness and childbirth." Speaking of the Port Moresby district the writer says:—"The natives of this part of New Guinea look upon all diseases as a bewitchment, and have no idea of medicine, except as something to exorcise the evil spirit. Medicine to drink is quite a new idea to them. Even in simple constipation it is thought to be the result of trespassing on forbidden ground, or stealing bananas over which rites have been performed to make them sacred. Diarrhoea is looked upon as the result of over or promiscuous feeding, but they have no remedy for it. . . There are medicine men who collect various leaves and herbs, but these are used as charms, and never taken. That in most request is one that will draw the women to its possessor, and make him irresistible to the fair sex."

A CORRESPONDENT to a contemporary writes:—"I have never found powdered charcoal to fail in the worst cases of dog poisoning by strychnine. It should be given in water or tea, whichever is handy. I have travelled a great deal about Queensland with stock, and have had many of my dogs poisoned; but if they were only alive I did not care how bad they were, for after administering charcoal they were fit to follow in about an hour."

ADULTERATION OF OLIVE OIL.—Dr. Hiepe. *Rep. der anal. Chem.* 5, 326. The author states that olive oil, which is largely exported from Portugal, is frequently adulterated there with a Brazilian oil, which is extracted from the seeds of *Jatropha Curcas* (belonging to Euphorbiaceae). A good test for it is to add some nitric acid and copper to the suspected oil, when its colour, after some time, becomes an intense reddish-brown. No other oil acts in a similar way, and 10 per cent. of this adulterant in an oil can be easily detected by this test.—*The Analyst*.

THE METRIC SYSTEM.—Dr. Elliott gives the following rules for the guidance of those who are studying the metric system:—1. To convert troy grains or minims into grammes or cubic centimetres, divide the number by 10, and from the quotient subtract one-third. 2. To convert apothecaries' or fluid drachms into grammes or cubic centimetres, multiply the number by four. 3. To convert troy or fluid ounces into grammes or cubic centimetres, multiply the number by thirty-two. 4. To convert grammes or cubic centimetres into troy grains or minims add fifty per cent., or one-half the number, and then multiply by ten. 5. To convert grammes or cubic centimetres into apothecaries' or fluid drachms, divide by four. 6. To convert grammes or cubic centimetres into troy or fluid ounces, divide by thirty-two. 7. To convert inches into metres, divide by forty. 8. To convert metres into inches, add one-tenth the number, and then multiply by thirty-six.

BAD WORDS FOR COCAINE.—In the *Weekly Medical Review* A. B. Shaw, M.D., says:—"Cocaine is devilish in its action; it undermines the mental and physical powers and the moral and intellectual qualities; it ruins its captives socially, morally, and financially; it produces insanity in a remarkably short space of time, if used continuously and in increasing doses." The *American Lancet* adds to the above that "Other eminent observers claim that no harm comes from its use, but sufficient facts have not yet been accumulated to serve as a basis for scientific conclusions. It is plain, at all events, that cocaine must be ranked with those seductive drugs which enslave."—*Druggists' Circular*.

THE Medical Act Amendment Bill lately introduced into the English Parliament has for its chief object the prevention of unqualified persons from falsely assuming medical titles or descriptions. The term "medical hall" is one of those to which the restrictions of the bill apply.

IN one of the most frequented thoroughfares of Vienna, the Maria Hilfer Strasse, a tragedy of an uncommon kind has taken place in broad daylight. A young tailor went to a physician for a consultation. On being told that he was incurable he fired two shots at the medical man, one striking the ear and the other the arm. The tailor then killed himself, firing seven shots from a small revolver. The wounds of the physician were not dangerous.

THE Czar has conferred on M. Pasteur the Order of St. Anne of the First Class, with diamond insignia, and other decorations on the physicians and surgeons who co-operated with the eminent *savant* in the treatment of the wolf and dog bitten Russians who went to Paris expressly to place themselves in his hands.

AN ECCENTRIC CHEMIST.—The *British and Colonial Druggist* reports the death, at Stockport, of Mr. Henry Warrall Oldham, chemist and druggist, "popularly known as Dr. Oldham," of whom the following account is given:—"Mr. Oldham has been in declining health for a long time, and, although not confined to the house, was attended by Dr. Whitehead. He died on Monday, 17th May. Mr. Oldham was over sixty years of age, and had occupied the shop in Hillgate for about forty years; his father, who came from Wilmslow, having previously been the tenant of the same shop for more than half a century. Mr. Oldham was unmarried, and had no very near relations. His life was one of comparative seclusion, and he was well known to be a man of a very eccentric character. As proof of this it may be mentioned that at one time he possessed a number of horses, which he would not allow to be removed from the stables. Here they were kept for a long time, and, although offered very high prices, he refused to sell them. At length they became so fierce that they had to be shot. Mr. Oldham took great pride in these horses, but he would not permit anyone to see them. At his late residence there is a large iron safe, which is imbedded in one of the walls. This safe, it is stated, has not been opened for a quarter of a century, and contains the family plate and other treasures of a bygone age. The key was in the possession of Mr. Oldham, and he was most probably the only person in the world who knew where it was kept. Anyhow, it cannot be found. Certain interested persons are doing their utmost to discover the whereabouts of a will, which will be essential in the settlement of deceased's affairs."

"ARE you successful, as a rule, in fever cases, doctor?" asked a druggist of a young physician. "Well—er, I haven't had many such cases as yet, but I have no doubt I shall be. There is one kind of fever that I imagine you might cure without difficulty." "Ab, thanks. Do you mean scarlet fever?" "No; life's fitful fever."

Legal and Magisterial.

A CAUTION was administered to a chemist, John Harrison (Boot's Drug Store, Lincolnshire), for selling so much as 7 grains of morphia to a man, who had died from the effects of same.

AN INQUEST was lately held at Chiswick, England, upon the body of a two-year-old child, who had died after sucking twelve to eighteen lucifer matches. A verdict of "Accidental death from phosphorus poisoning" was returned.

IN the Supreme Court, Adelaide, on 6th August, Henry Wheeler Weston Guest, chemist, of Moonta, was acquitted on the charge of feloniously assaulting Maude Polkinghorne, a girl under the age of sixteen years, at Moonta, on the 13th May.

MRS. BRADY, wife of the chemist at Petersburg, S.A., has been committed for trial on a charge of manslaughter, she having caused the death of a woman named Rabbich by administering a dose of ammonia to recover the deceased from a fainting fit.

A CASE of poisoning by Lobelia seed was lately investigated at Oldham. The deceased, Jas. Kelly, aged 32, had suffered from indigestion, and had applied to a Mr. Parkinson for half an ounce of Lobelia seed, the whole of which he had taken. The coroner suggested Lobelia should be scheduled, and the jury recommended that those who sell it should not sell more than one dose at a time.

AN elderly man who had heard ammonia recommended as a stimulant at a temperance meeting took a dessert-spoonful of that undiluted liquid. He was taken very ill, and a medical man found that the skin of his mouth had been entirely destroyed, and was hanging in patches, and the sufferer soon afterwards expired. At an inquest which followed, held at Paddington (England), a verdict of accidental death was returned.

JNO. REID MORRISON, a medical practitioner, who also kept a shop, was lately fined 20s., with costs, for selling spirit of nitrous ether, not of the nature and quality of the article demanded, the drug being deficient in nitrous ether to the extent of 80 per cent. The prosecution was conducted by the sanitary inspector to the parish. The ether was admittedly pure, but had deteriorated in strength by decomposition and evaporation.

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain lately successfully prosecuted Mr. Whiteley, of "Universal Provider" fame, for selling cyanide of potassium in the photographic portion of his business without observing legal requirements. The poison was openly sold, the sale not being registered, and the purchaser being unknown to the shopman. There was no practical defence, though it was suggested that the prosecution had been initiated through the jealousy of persons engaged in the wholesale photographic business. A fine of 20s. was inflicted, with costs.

AN INQUEST was lately held at Hackney, London, concerning the death of a young woman who was alleged to have committed suicide. A tin which had contained Keating's Insect Powder was found empty in the bedroom of the deceased, and a quantity of stuff resembling that preparation was found in the stomach. It was elicited, however, that the powder is not dangerous to human life, and the jury returned an open verdict. It is surmised that the intending suicide believed that she had poisoned herself, and that her imagination was so strong as to invest the preparation with the deadly qualities which she believed it to possess. The *British and Colonial Druggist* has an editorial upon this interesting case, and relates a number of cases wherein the imagination had also had a chief part in causing death.

Poisoning Cases.

SUICIDE BY POISONING.—An inquest was held on the body of Frank Russell Fullarton, aged 21, the son of Captain Fullarton. He was a chemist, and had suffered for many years from sciatica, and had lately become very melancholy. He left his home, saying he was going to meet a friend, with whom he was going to Bourke to see if that climate would relieve him. That was the last time he was seen by his relations. He slept that night at the Bull and Mouth Hotel, Bourke-street. At noon on the next day the servants of the hotel found his door locked, and received no response to their calls. A constable was sent for, and the door opened in his presence. Fullarton was found dead in bed. There was a bottle containing hydrocyanic acid on the dressing-table, and beside it were a hypodermic syringe, a pocket-knife, and a letter addressed to his father. In the letter he stated that he intended to commit suicide, and bade his father, mother, sisters, and brothers farewell. The verdict of the jury was suicide by poisoning whilst of unsound mind.

MR. CANDLER conducted an inquiry at Brighton on the 10th August as to the circumstances surrounding the death of Sarah Grace Hicks, wife of Mr. J. A. Hicks, chemist, Bay-street. The deceased had suffered for many years from chronic asthma, and on the night of the 7th her husband administered to her an opiate, prescribed by a doctor, and on Sunday morning, when Mr. Hicks found that she was seriously ill, he called in Dr. Simons, who could do nothing to revive her. She died on the afternoon of that day. Dr. Simons and Dr. Caffyn, who made a *post-mortem* examination of the body, were both of opinion that the amount of opium was not too much for a person of the deceased's constitution if there were nothing wrong with the lungs. The *post-mortem* examination showed that death was the result of a failure of the heart's action, and was accelerated by the dose of opium. The jury found that the death of Mrs. Hicks was caused by an ordinary dose of opium administered medicinally, and that no blame attached to anyone.

Trade Notes.

A NEW branch pharmacy is about being opened at East St. Kilda by Mr. James Brinsmead, of High-street, St. Kilda.

THE business of Mr. J. T. M'Gowan in Clarendon-street, South Melbourne, has been purchased by Mr. G. T. Le Couteur, late of Kyneton.

THE new premises for Mr. W. W. Caught, in North Fitzroy, are now nearly completed, and will prove a very creditable addition to the pharmacies in that district.

THE new premises for Mr. S. M. Dalton in Chapel-street, Prahran, are rapidly approaching completion, and are now being fitted in the most handsome modern style, of which we hope to give a detailed account in our next issue.

MR. CLEMENT BOURDIC has opened a very commodious and well-appointed pharmacy in Spencer-street, Melbourne, opposite the Railway Station. Mr. Bourdic is making French and Italian pharmacy one of the specialities of his business.

MESSRS. R. AND J. M'FARLANE have now completed their new pharmacy in Elizabeth-street. It is a prettily-fitted shop, the fittings, which are all new, being made by Mr. Wesack, while the bottles and labelling have been done by Mr. Bailey in his best style.

Publications Received.

- THE Sixty-sixth Annual Announcement of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy,
 Second Progress Report of the Royal Commission on Vegetable Products.
 Annual Report of the Secretary for Mines and Water Supply.
British and Colonial Druggist, Analyst, Australasian Medical Gazette.
Australian Medical Journal, Journal de Médecine de Paris.
 Syllabus of *Materia Medica*, by Professors Harvey and Davidson.
 Notes on *Materia Medica* and Pharmacy, by Professor Roberts.
 General Index to the Year Book of Pharmacy, from the British Pharmaceutical Conference.

Obituary.

ANOTHER of the founders of the Pharmaceutical Society, Mr. Jas. Muskett, pharmaceutical chemist, of Harleston, has also gone the way of all flesh.

MR. JAMES BAYNES, of Hull, one of the founders of the Pharmaceutical Society, and formerly a member of the Council, died on 9th June at the age of seventy-four.

WE regret to announce the death of Dr. T. Hopper, of Carngham, Victoria, at the age of 79 years. The deceased gentleman was highly respected in the district, where he had resided for many years, and was well known for his kind and genial disposition.

THE death is announced of Mr. Wm. Southall, of Birmingham, of the firm of Southall Brothers and Barclay. The deceased was a member of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, and treasurer of the Chemists and Druggists' Trade Association, which position he held at the time of his death.

WE regret to announce the death on the 27th July of Mr. William Rawle, of Hawthorn, at the advanced age of 79 years. The deceased gentleman was one of the founders of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. He came to Melbourne in 1861 by the ship *Lightning*, and shortly afterwards established himself in business at Hawthorn, retiring in favour of his son a few years ago. He was a fellow-apprentice with Mr. D. R. Long, of Bourke-street, with whom he maintained a life-long friendship. He was one of the first members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria, and for many years one of the auditors. Mr. Rawle died sitting in his chair by the fireside. His end was peace.

Personalities.

AT last advice Mr. W. J. Watkins (Messrs. Evans, Lescher and Webb) had left Queensland for an extended tour in China and India.

AFTER a most successful visit to New South Wales and Queensland, Mr. R. H. Roe, of Messrs. F. Stearns and Co., has returned to Victoria. His next trip will be to South Australia.

WE learn that Mr. Josephs, who is the representative of Messrs. Togood and Co. in New South Wales, proposes shortly to make a stay in Victoria, where he will introduce a number of novelties.

MR. SHEPPERSON has arrived at Cape Town, per ss. *Ionic*, for the purpose of making a very thorough tour through all the South African colonies, solely on behalf of Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome and Co., manufacturing chemists, etc., London. We have been informed that Mr. Shepperson intends paying the Australian colonies another visit, and is expected to arrive here in November next.

DR. J. ELLIOTT, of Messrs. Elliott Bros., Sydney, spent a few days in Melbourne while *en route* to Europe in the P. and O. Company's s.s. *Rome*, and compressed as much sight-seeing as possible into the few days at his disposal.

We are glad to report that Mr. E. Bage (of Messrs. Felton, Grimwade and Co.), who left Melbourne some months since on a visit to Honclulu for the benefit of his health, has been greatly benefited by the change. His many friends in Victoria will learn with pleasure that he is greatly improved in health.

MR. E. NORTON GRIMWADE, son of Mr. F. S. Grimwade, of Melbourne, who has been for some years in England completing his pharmaceutical education, was to sail for Melbourne in the P. and O. Company's steamer *Carthage*, leaving London on the 13th August. Mr. Grimwade has attended the last two courses at Bloomsbury-square, but, we understand, will not present himself for examination in England, not having yet attained the age of twenty-one. Upon attaining his majority we are informed that it is Mr. Grimwade's intention to submit himself to the examination under the Pharmacy Act of Victoria.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

COOPER.—On the 10th July, at Geelong, the wife of Fred. Hope Cooper, pharmaceutical chemist—a son.

GAMSON.—On the 1st August, at Victoria-avenue, Albert-park, the wife of H. E. Gamson—a son.

HOPE.—On the 8th August, at Albert Park, the wife of Adam Hope, chemist, &c., of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

GEORGE—DUDLEY.—On the 27th July, at Matthias' Church, Bombala, New South Wales, by the Rev. Canon Betts, assisted by the Rev. James Studds, Goulburn, Alfred Howitt, second son of Joseph George, pharmacist, Brunswick, to Frances Mary, youngest daughter of the late William Harvey Dudley, Bombala.

DEATHS.

GARRAWAY.—On the 14th July, at the residence of Mr. Peter Hunter, Balmain, Edward J. Garraway, late of Glasgow, and assistant to Mr. Hume, chemist, George-street, Sydney, aged 22 years.

SCHUETTE.—On the 18th July, 1886, at Leipzig, Dr. Rudolf Schuette, late of College-street, Sydney. By cablegram.

HOPPER.—On the 22nd July, at his residence, Snake Valley, Thos. Hopper, Esq., J.P., in his 79th year.

SMITH.—On the 23rd July, at Murchison, of debility, Eleanor, relict of late Thomas Heathorn Smith, chemist, Rushworth, in her 76th year.

RAWLE.—On the 27th July, at his residence, Wakefield-street, Hawthorn, William Rawle pharmaceutical chemist, aged 79.

GAMSON.—On the 2nd August, at Victoria-avenue, Albert-park, from convulsions, Herbert, infant son of Herbert E. and Eliza Gray (Lillie) Gamson.

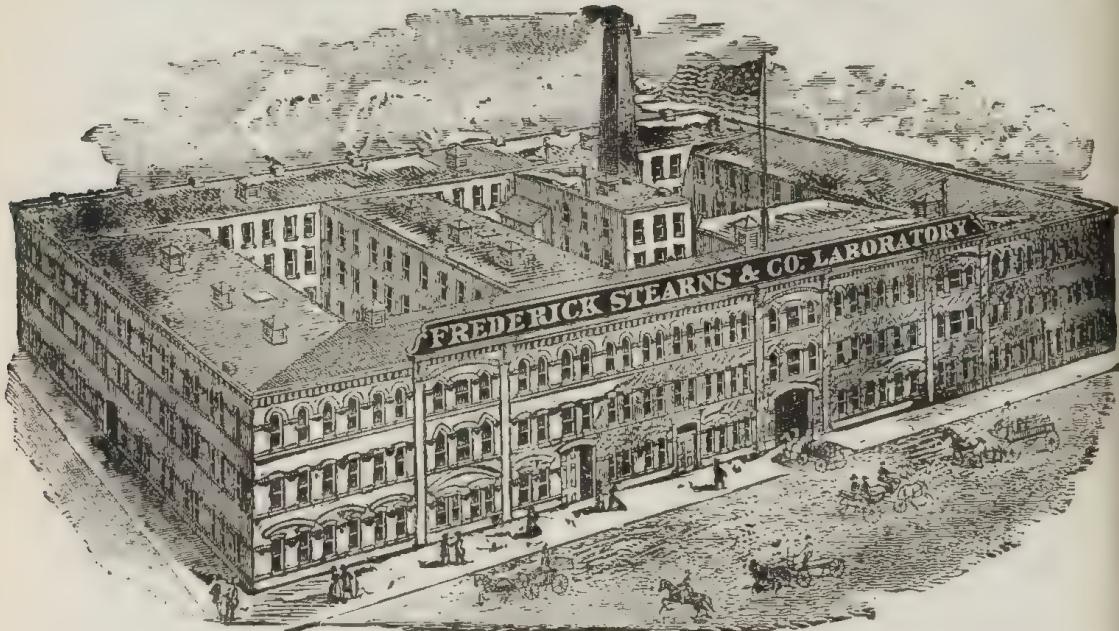
HICKS.—On the 8th August, at Bay-street, Brighton, Sarah Grace, wife of John A. Hicks, chemist, aged 51 years.

THE ORDINARY QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA WILL BE HELD AT THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY, SWANSTON STREET, MELBOURNE, On FRIDAY, 10th day of September, at 8 o'clock p.m.

Mr. G. Kingsland, sen., has given notice that he will read a Paper on "The Rights and Privileges of Chemists and Druggists to Prescribe."

HARRY SHILLINGLAW, Hon. Sec.

Frederick Stearns & Co., Manufacturing Pharmacists, DETROIT, MICHIGAN, U.S.A.



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The Products of the Works comprise a full line of **Pharmaceutical Products, as illustrated in Catalogue 83, covering 20,000 items**, among which the most important are:—Fluid Extracts, 582 kinds; Sugar-coated Pills, 685 kinds; Gelatine-coated Pills, 622 kinds; Elixirs, 198 kinds; Solid Extracts, 710 kinds; Resinoids, 220 kinds; Saxoline Ointments, 137 kinds; Powdered Drugs, 810 kinds; Effervesing Granules, 61 kinds; Medicated Lozenges, 173 kinds; Suppositories, 422 kinds; Medicated Syrups, 312 kinds; Medicated Tinctures, 414 kinds.

Aside from these, as is well known, we are the originators and introducers of the **Popular Non-Secret Medicines, Toilet and Domestic Articles**. These we introduced in 1876 to a retail drug public, long suffering under the intolerable nuisance of an enforced trade in secret and quack nostrums, replacing such with good prescriptions, well adapted to popular uses, for slight ailments, which, without being claimed as specifics, thoroughly meet these necessities, without any secrecy or quackery therein—these, too, in generous sizes, and at fair retail prices, in handsome dress, with full directions and uses—the phraseology used upon labels, circulars, and wrappers being carefully freed from any words claiming specific value or value as cure-alls. These Goods, from a small list of only twelve items in 1876, are now extended to a list of over 800 items, described, illustrated, and priced in the **New Catalogue, No. 84, 76 Pages, 192 Engravings**. These Catalogues, Nos. 83 and 84, are sent to all intending purchasers free.

We publish an eight-page **Illustrated Paper, entitled a "New Idea," monthly**. It is almost entirely original—is devoted to furthering the interests of the Company, and in which all new ideas that come to the surface are first described and illustrated. Any English speaking or reading retail druggist the world around, not already on our mailing list, may have the "New Idea" mailed to him for 1885, post paid and without any charge, upon application therefor.

ORDERS SOLICITED BY

ROCKE. TOMPSITT & CO., SOLE AGENTS, MELBOURNE.

THE AUSTRALASIAN Journal of Pharmacy.

No. 9.]

SEPTEMBER, 1886.

[VOL. I.

Original and Selected Articles.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.—ITS BIRTH AND PROGRESS.

No. II.

OUR first instalment brought our history down to the formal inauguration of the society, and the appointment of a provisional committee for the revision of the rules and regulations which had been proposed for the government of the association. It cannot but be noted with interest how thoroughly the pioneers of pharmacy were informed of the requirements of the profession even in the remote times of which we speak; and it must be highly gratifying to those of them who are still with us to witness in our own day the almost perfect realisation of the aspirations of 1857.

Mr. F. Cooper having generously placed a room at their disposal, the committee zealously applied themselves to their duties, one of their firstly-recorded proceedings being the appointment of Mr. Williams as hon. secretary, the selection of Mr. S. J. T. Croad for the post of treasurer, and of the Colonial Bank of Australasia as the repository of the society's funds. On 9th April, 1857, the work of revision had been successfully accomplished, and it was decided that 200 copies of the Rules and Regulations should be printed; that a copy should be sent to "every druggist in the colony;" and that a public meeting of the members should be called for the purpose of adopting the Rules and electing the council. In order that the profession should not lack instruction concerning the importance of the steps then in progress for its benefit, the following gentlemen were appointed local secretaries:—H. A. Berger (Ballarat), G. W. Glass (Castlemaine), E. Garsed (Sandhurst), G. Page (Dunolly), W. Archer (Geelong), M. F. Ogle (Maryborough), W. Goodshaw (Avoca), W. H. Neuber (Beechworth). The general meeting duly took place on 20th May, 1857, in the Melbourne Mechanics' Institute (now the Athenæum), under the presidency of Mr. F. Cooper, when the rules were adopted, and the first council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria was duly elected:—Messrs. Robert Glover (Melbourne), George Lewis (Melbourne), William Ford (Melbourne), Jno. T. Thomas (Geelong), W. Johnson (St. Kilda), G. H. Williams (Melbourne), C. R. Blackett (Fitzroy), S. J. T. Croad (Melbourne), J. Bosisto (Richmond), J. Kruse (Melbourne), F. Cooper (Melbourne), and W. Archer (Geelong). Messrs. Bowen and Walton were elected auditors. A vote of thanks to Messrs. Cooper, Croad, and Williams for their exertions on behalf of the society brought this historically-important meeting to a close.

Animated with enthusiasm in the cause of pharmaceutical progress, the newly-elected council set vigorously to work to establish the infant society on a firm and substantial basis, and to carry out the more immediate objects for which it had been called into existence.

A necessarily immediate business was the election of office-bearers, and this, which took place at the close of the general meeting, named Mr. F. Cooper as president, Mr. Joseph Bosisto as vice-president, Mr. Croad as treasurer, and Mr. Williams as hon. secretary. The latter gentleman soon afterwards retired in favour of Mr. Joseph Lewis. At the same meeting, Mr. Thomas (Geelong) brought under the notice of the council the necessity for securing legislative enactment for the protection of the society, and Mr. Archer (Geelong) supported this by submitting a bill which he had prepared with that view.

Little time was lost in providing a vehicle for the publication of the society's proceedings, and for disseminating information valuable to the profession, the *Quarterly Journal and Transactions* making its appearance on 1st January, 1858. This, the first authorised organ of the society, is a most creditable production. The first four numbers were edited by Messrs. Joseph Bosisto and William Johnson, and were of varied and interesting contents. *Inter alia*, the list of the founders of the society is therein set out in full. Apropos of this, we desire to say that in enumerating the names of members enrolled at the inaugural meeting in our last issue we merely proceeded chronologically with the records before us, and did others of the pioneers no injustice by not including their names in that list.

We have the pleasure to now give a complete roll of the Founders:—

President, Mr. Frederick Cooper; vice-president, Mr. Jos. Bosisto.

Treasurer, Mr. S. J. T. Croad; secretary, Mr. Joseph Lewis.

MEMBERS.

(Members of the Council are distinguished by an asterisk, thus *)

Avoca.—Mr. W. Goodshaw.

Ballarat.—Messrs. H. A. Berger, J. F. Usher, Warner, Sheppard.

Beechworth.—Messrs. W. Witt, Geddes.

Belfast.—Mr. Eames.

Brunswick.—Mr. Joseph George.

Collingwood.—Messrs. C. R. Blackett,* A. T. Best, Binge, Davies, Braddock, Dixon, G. H. Williams,* F. Perry, Considine, J. D. Evans, H. R. Austen.

Dunolly.—Messrs. Brown, G. Page.

Emerald Hill.—Messrs. N. W. Thomas, Lorimer.

Epsom.—Mr. Andrew Smith.

Geelong.—Messrs. J. T. Thomas,* Bull, Matthews, Horne, Chas. Kernot, M'Donald, Poynton, Poulton, Wm. Archer, W. H. Kernot.

Hawthorn.—Mr. Bourne.

Kingower.—Mr. Edmond Dermer.

Melbourne.—Messrs. Geo. Lewis,* Fred. Cooper,* J. Kruse,* S. J. T. Croad,* T. A. Dunstone, H. Hall, W. J. Denham, H. J. Long, Neild, N. O'Connor, G. Wragge, Geo. Walton, Wm. Bowen, R. Glover,* Jos. Lewis, G. Kingsland, Edmond Cooper, Edwin Plummer, G. Wilson, W. Ford,* J. Blackie, J. W. Blair, T. M. Pane, Mahon, C. T. Plunkett, Edmund Keogh, W. H. Florance, Jos. Barnes, Youngman, McCan, J. Horne, Michael Keogh.

Melbourne, North.—Messrs. C. Atkin, J. T. Rubie, T. P. Court, J. Connor.

Maryborough.—Mr. M. F. Ogle.

Prahran.—Messrs. A. F. White, Gidley, Chas. Ogg.

Richmond.—Messrs. Jos. Bosisto,* Don, Wrentmore.

Sandridge.—Mr. David Thomas.

Sandhurst.—Messrs. Edward Garsed, W. Harris, J. Nelson Jones, F. H. Richards.

St. Kilda.—Messrs. Wm. Johnson,* J. W. Finch, Thomas, Matthews.

ASSOCIATES.

Mr. M'Knight (Collingwood), Messrs. Dyson, Pardy, Ewing (Geelong), Messrs. Jas. Pendlebury, Hy. Dawson, F. W. Southwood, A. Marshall, H. C. Rose, Jas. Crossley, Jas. Heffernan, W. N. Rolfe, Chas. Curtis, Jno. Williams, Andrew Miller (Melbourne), Mr. Wm. Barratt (Melbourne, N.), Mr. Roebuck (Richmond), Messrs. Ledward, A. W. Finch (St. Kilda.)

An endeavour was made to institute a monthly series of pharmaceutical meetings of members and associates (with a recess during the heat of summer), and the first of these was held on 2nd October, 1857, Mr. C. R. Blackett being in the chair, when the vice-president (Mr. Bosisto) delivered the introductory address, in which he dealt at length upon the botany and mineralogy of the colony, concluding with a really eloquent peroration upon scientific pharmacy and the aims of the society.

The first annual meeting of the society was held at the Commercial Chambers, Swanston-street, and the report of the council presented upon that occasion rehearses the doings of the society's first year of existence:—

"It is with pleasure your council lay before you their first Annual Report. You are all aware of the causes which called the society into existence, and they were fully discussed at the general meeting of the chemists and druggists, when the formation of the Pharmaceutical Society was determined on, at which meeting the laws and constitution of the society were agreed to, and the council was also elected.

"At the first meeting of the council Mr. Frederick Cooper was elected president, Mr. Bosisto vice-president, Mr. Croad treasurer, and Mr. Williams hon. secretary. The body of chemists throughout Victoria was appealed to, and it is with sincere gratification your council announce that 89 names were sent in with their subscription as members, and 18 associates.

"As soon as the society was established your council communicated the fact to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, and solicited their assistance and co-operation.

"Your council took active measures to prevent the very objectionable Poisons Bill, introduced by Dr. Tierney, passing the Legislative Assembly, and, are happy to say, with success; and they hope on an early occasion to bring before your notice a bill on the subject which, while it will aim at affording the public as much safety as can be done by Act of Parliament, will not be so oppressively stringent as the one before alluded to.

"Your council felt that it would be very desirable to establish a monthly lecture on pharmaceutical, chemical, and scientific subjects, and accordingly, in October last, your vice-president delivered an opening lecture. Arrangements have been made to continue these lectures regularly during the year we have now entered upon. Your council trust the members will second their endeavours in carrying out this very important means of improvement.

"As the Excise laws relative to the introduction of æther and its preparations were very undefined, and caused considerable trouble and annoyance to chemists and druggists importing the same, your council formed a deputation and waited on the Honourable the Commissioner of Trade and Customs, who, after receiving them very courteously, and listening to the facts, was pleased to order that æther and its preparations, and also chemical preparations of opium (such as morphia), should be admitted duty free.

"Your council found it necessary to appoint a paid secretary to the society, as Mr. Williams, the honorary secretary, found the duties interfere too much with his private affairs, and resigned. Mr. J. Lewis was appointed to that office, with an allowance of £25 per annum.

"Your council, thinking it advisable to have an office in a central part of the city, which could also be used as a lecture-room and to hold meetings of the society in, decided upon renting the room we are now assembled in, at the rate of £50 per annum. They have, however, made arrangements with another society whereby this amount will be greatly reduced during the ensuing year.

"Your council has sustained a severe loss during the past year in the death of Mr. Archer, of Geelong, as he was one of those very active in the formation of the society, and one whose advice and assistance was at all times of great value.

"As it was obvious to your council that a medium was wanting for the periodical interchange of ideas among the members of the society, and also as a means of making country members acquainted with what was doing by the council and society in town, it was resolved, after much deliberation, to establish a *Pharmaceutical Journal*, somewhat after the plan adopted by the society in England. They determined to publish the *Journal* only quarterly at present. Messrs. Bosisto and Johnson were appointed editors. The first number was published on the 1st January, and forwarded gratuitously to each member and associate of the society.

"The necessity for the introduction of a bill into the Legislative Assembly to regulate the practice of pharmacy in Victoria has been under the consideration of your council; but, owing to the unsettled state of polities at the present time, they have refrained from pushing the matter forward.

"In conclusion, your council would earnestly impress upon the members of the society the necessity for supporting them in the arduous duties awaiting them during the coming year. Let each individual member feel as if the success of the society depended upon his own individual exertions, attend the lectures, and communicate with the editors of the *Journal*. Surely some new facts must be continually presenting themselves to your notice worth communicating to your fellow-members; and let us endeavour, by a consistent unity of action, to raise the standard of the profession we have adopted, and to establish the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria upon such a firm basis that it may eventually be one of the leading institutions of the colony."

The treasurer's balance-sheet showed—Receipts, £217 10s. 11d.; expenditure, £145 18s. 4d.; balance, £71 12s. 7d.

Needless to say, a vote of thanks was passed to the council for the exertions by which they had in so short a space of time achieved such wonderful results. Confident hopes were expressed on all sides that, satisfactory as was the progress already made, the benefits arising from the society would ere long be exhibited and acknowledged in the greater degree of interest taken in it by the trade. Whether this confidence was or was not justified will be seen in our next instalment. In the meantime, to complete our history of the year under notice, we may add that Messrs. Ford, Blackett, and Glover having retired by rotation, and Mr. Archer's seat having become vacant through death, Messrs. Wragge, Dunstone, O'Connor, and Thomas were elected to the council, and Messrs. Best and Blair were appointed auditors for the ensuing year.

(*To be continued.*)

To disguise the taste of quinine, Dr. Hugo Engel recommends a mixture with one grain of quinine of one grain of chloride of ammonium and four grains of powdered liquorice root. The same proportion of chloride of ammonium must be used for larger doses, but ten grains of the liquorice will suffice for ten grains of quinine.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW PAPUAN FAGRAEA.

BY BARON FERD. VON MUELLER, K.C.M.G., M. & PH.D., F.R.S., F.C.S. &c.
FAGRAEA WOODIANA.

Branchlets quite robust; leaves very large, chartaceous, gradually narrowed downward and decurrent along the whole petiole, prominently costate-nerved, paler beneath, shining on neither page; petiole at the base broadly dilated, clasping with two posteriorely rounded stipular plates and anteriorely much protracted into a bilobed broad lamina; cymes considerably shorter than the leaves; general peduncle much abbreviated; pedicels hardly as long as the calyx or somewhat shorter; tube of the latter scarcely longer than the lobes; corolla rather large, its tube slender and not much exceeding in length the cuneate-oval lobes, but several times longer than the calyx; stamens not reaching to the summit of the corolla-lobes; ovary gradually attenuated into the style, comparatively slender.

At the base of the Owen Stanley's Ranges; H. O. Forbes (744). The whole plant glabrous. Leaves inclusive of the petiolar base attaining a length of fully one foot and a breath of six inches. Stipular portion about $\frac{2}{3}$ inch broad and long; lateral nerves distant; veins and veinlets concealed. Cyme trichotomous. Calyx during anthesis not fully half an inch long, its lobes rounded-blunt. Corolla $2-2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, the colour not recognisable in the dried state of the flowers, the tube not much widened upwards. Anthers about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long. Style nearly as long as the corolla. Fruit yet unknown.

This species agrees almost in size, form and basal dilatation of leaves with *F. auriculata*; but the stipular base is still more produced upwards, the texture of the leaves is considerably thinner, they are also still more decurrent into the leafstalk and are much stronger nerved; besides the flowers are far more numerous and of much less size, while the corolla is upwards proportionately less widened. From the imperfectly known *F. fastigiata* our new plant differs already in the much more dilated stipular portion of the leaves and in less angular peduncles; the fruit will afford probably other means of distinguishing the two. Not dissimilar to *F. Zeilanica* of Blume, if the basal dilatation of the leaf-stalk is left out of consideration;—but quite unlike Thunberg's *F. Zeilanica*, as figured by Lamarck (Illustr. des genres pl. 167), to which possibly Thwaites' *F. obovata* may be referable, while the real plant of that name, as originally defined by Wallich, seems to accord with Blume's *F. crassifolia*, and approaches also Wight's *F. Malabarica*, these three having the leaf-nerves concealed or only very faintly visible. The genuine *F. Coromandelina*, doubtfully included by Clarke in *F. obovata*, has the leaves (according to Wight's delineation) very distinctly nerved, a characteristic of leading specific value in this genus. All these congeners can perhaps be much better set out specifically, when opportunities arise for seeing the form and colour and for investigating the structure of the matured fruit in each instance, that of Blume's *F. Zeilanica* being shown as thickly rostrate. To this plant, as regards size and form of fruits and also of leaves, respond specimens, sent from near the Astrolabe-Range by the Rev. James Chalmers; but the petioles of his plant are longer and the cyme is more ample. A *Fagraea*, collected by Dr. Guppy in the Solomon-Islands, has the fruit only minutely apiculate.

I have bestowed on this very conspicuous plant the name of Harry Wood Esq., Under-Secretary of the Department of Mines and Forests in Sydney, who amidst the arduous duties of his responsible position still managed, to advance also the cause of geography as Chairman of the Exploration-Committee of the Australian Geographic Society, and thus promoted simultaneously the interests of the discoverer of this *Fagraea*. The flowers of all species of this genus as highly fragrant serve for cosmetic purposes, while the bark of some is drawn into medicinal use.

SCIENTILEGIUM.*

BY ALFRED H. JACKSON, B.Sc., F.C.S., M.P.S., &c., Director of the College of Pharmacy, Melbourne.

SEVERAL inquiries concerning Idol having been made at the College during the past month, it is thought desirable to present a summary of what has been published about this new antiseptic.

IODOL.

History.—Our knowledge of this body is chiefly due to the researches of Ciamician and Dennstedt, who have published a number of investigations on the Pyrroline series.

Pyrrol or Pyrroline, C_4H_4NH , is a colourless oil when freshly prepared, but it soon assumes a brown colour. It boils at about $130^{\circ} C.$, and has a pleasant smell. It imparts a fine crimson colour to pine wood moistened with

hydrochloric acid. Its constitution may be represented as $\text{NH}-\begin{array}{c} \text{CH}=\text{CH} \\ | \\ \text{CH}=\text{CH} \end{array}$

(Baeyer), or $\text{NH}-\begin{array}{c} \text{CH}=\text{CH} \\ || \\ \text{CH}=\text{CH} \end{array}$ (Schiff), thus it is an Amine and analogous to

Thiophene $S-\begin{array}{c} \text{CH}=\text{CH} \\ | \\ \text{CH}=\text{CH} \end{array}$ and to Furfurane $O-\begin{array}{c} \text{CH}=\text{CH} \\ | \\ \text{CH}=\text{CH} \end{array}$ wherein the Imidogen group is replaced by sulphur and by oxygen respectively.

Preparation.—Pyrroline has been obtained by heating ammonium pyromucate with glycerine, by the fractional distillation of coal tar oil, and from bone or animal oil. This last source exhibits it in a form suitable to the manufacture of *Idol*. The fraction of bone oil containing pyrroline is heated with a large excess of potash in a reflux apparatus until the whole mass is fused, any unchanged oil is separated, and the solid, finely-powdered crystalline mass washed with ether is *Potassium Pyrroline*.

To make the iodol, an ethereal solution of iodine is cautiously poured into a flask containing 100 c.c. of anhydrous ether, and 10 grammes of potassium-pyrroline. The iodine is added until a permanent colouration is produced, but a large excess of iodine must be avoided. After removing the ether from the mixture by distillation, the residue is exhausted with boiling alcohol to separate the potassium iodide from the iodo-pyrroline; the alcoholic solution is treated with animal charcoal, and poured into water; and the precipitated product is further purified by solution in alcohol, reprecipitation by water, and recrystallisation from alcohol.

Properties.—Iodol or tetroiodopyrroline, C_4I_4NH , forms long prisms, soluble in ether, acetic acid, and hot alcohol. The crystals decompose without melting between 140° and $150^{\circ} C.$ With silver nitrate their alcoholic solution gives a white precipitate, which rapidly blackens. Iodol is insoluble in an aqueous solution of potash, but dissolves readily in alcoholic potash. Commercial specimens are in the form of a brown amorphous powder; when warmed with nitric acid the solution turns red; and in sulphuric acid it dissolves with the formation of a green colour.

Uses.—It is said to be free from the smell of iodoform, and to be a more powerful antiseptic; it has not yet produced any symptoms of poisoning. It appears also to act as a local anaesthetic, and favours granulation. Applied locally to chancroids it produces the same effect as salicylic acid. A one-hundredth per cent. solution in oil injected under the skin produces no reaction, while the passage of iodine into the urine has been determined.

This was omitted from the last issue owing to pressure of other matter.

DILATANCY.

Prof. Osborne Reynolds, of the Owens College, Manchester, has discovered a new property of matter, to which he has applied the term *Dilatancy*. It is a property of granular matter probably connected with gravitation. If one were asked what would happen in case a caoutchouc bag filled with sand and water, and joined by a tube to a reservoir of water, were to be squeezed, the answer would most likely be that the sand and water, or the water only, would be pressed out of the bag; but Prof. Reynolds found the opposite to take place. The more the bag was squeezed the larger it became.

"As the result of a long-continued effort to conceive a mechanical system possessing the properties assigned by Maxwell, and, further, which would account for the cohesion of the molecules of matter, it became apparent that the simplest conceivable medium—a mass of rigid granules in contact with each other—would answer, not one, but all the known requirements, provided the shape and mutual fit of the grains were such that, while the grains rigidly preserved their shape, the medium should possess the apparently paradoxical or anti-sponge property of swelling in bulk as the shape was altered."

If the grains interlock, any alteration of form or relation must, under given conditions, increase the space occupied. The size of the grains is not important as long as either of two conditions are satisfied—firstly, that the medium is continuous, infinite in extent; or, secondly, that the grains at the boundary should be so held as to prevent a re-arrangement beginning. Prof. Reynolds used a thin indiarubber bag having a capacity of six pints. The bag being filled with clean, dry sand, was joined to one leg of a mercury pressure-gauge; when the bag was flattened between a couple of boards the mercury rose seven inches in the leg next to the bag; therefore, a partial vacuum was formed by squeezing the bag. Suppose that water be used, the sand being at its closest order, and the mouth of the bag be closed so that it cannot draw any more water; when pressure is applied that bag does not alter in shape; it could not do so without enlarging its interstices; these cannot enlarge without drawing more water, and this has been prevented. On opening the neck to allow the entrance of water the bag at once yields to a slight pressure, and changes its shape; but if the mouth be closed again no further change in the shape of the bag can be effected.

A familiar instance of this property is seen when walking along a wet beach; around each foot-print the sand is seen to change colour for some distance. This is because the pressure of the foot has changed the shape of the mass under it, and the water is sucked in (instead of being squeezed out), drying the sand all around.

THE PHARMACOGNOSY OF THE NITRITES.

Under the above title Mr. G. A. Atkinson, M.B., has published a paper in the *Pharmaceutical Journal* wherein he shows that the crystallised nitrite of sodium is the best inorganic salt for use in medicine. Its solubility in distilled water is 1 in 1·14; and a solution, in the absence of ferment, and of stronger acids than nitrous, is perfectly stable, but is apt to be the seat of a form of mould if exposed to the air, and such growth naturally causes deterioration in the strength of the solution. It may be used for administration by the stomach, a little sodium bicarbonate preventing its decomposition by the gastric juice. It is also the best nitrite for hypodermic injection. This experimenter considers the nitrite of amyl to be the best organic nitrite, being more stable than ethyl nitrite, and the most suitable for inhalation.

Nitro-glycerine or propenyl tri-nitrate ($C_3H_5NO_3$) is practically unacted on by the gastric juice, a point of importance where absorption without decomposition is desired. A solution of 1 in 1000 of distilled water—dose 5 to 30 minims—is recommended for administration by the stomach.

THE AUSTRALASIAN

Journal of Pharmacy

*With which is incorporated the Australasian
Chemist and Druggist.*

Published on the 20th of each Month.

THIS Journal, which is the only organ of Pharmacy in the Australasian Colonies, is devoted to the advancement of Pharmaceutical knowledge, and to the advocacy of a more thorough education and practical training for all persons engaged in preparing and dispensing medicines, drugs, and chemicals. It is issued gratis to the members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia in

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New South Wales,
New Zealand,
Queensland,

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Tasmania,
Western Australia,
Fiji,

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COMMUNICATIONS for the EDITORIAL department of this Journal must be addressed to THE EDITOR, SWANSTON STREET, MELBOURNE.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for

insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will be glad to consider any suggestions from Members and Subscribers regarding the improvement of this publication.

Contributions of any items of interest are invited.

Advertisements to be inserted in the next issue should be received by the Publisher not later than the 14th of each month.

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U.S.A.

Readers are respectfully requested to mention this Journal when acting on information obtained from it.

Editorial.

A DISPUTED TITLE.

In the last issue of the trade journal which has appropriated a title claimed by right to belong to the proprietors of *The Australasian Journal of Pharmacy*, a note of triumph is sounded on the withdrawal of the action brought to restrain it from the use of the title in question; and, while admitting that "the final stages have only been completed a few days," considerable capital is attempted to be made out of the fact that no announcement had appeared in our columns on the subject. Our contemporary might have spared its heroics. There was no intention on the part of the proprietors of this journal to shirk announcing that, while still holding firmly to the justice of the claim on which that action —under the best legal advice in the colony—was initiated, they have felt compelled, in consequence of certain unforeseen technical difficulties in the production of evidence, to withdraw from its further prosecution; and we now give the fact that "publicity," the anxiety displayed for which can scarcely fail to be gratifying to our advertisers.

Briefly stated, we were called upon to prove "special damage," and, inasmuch as we could not show that our reputation, either with readers or advertisers, had suffered, or was likely to suffer, from any competition with the local offspring of the publication in the possession of which Messrs. Morgan Bros. have pecuniarily prospered, it was considered advisable to discontinue an action which, while promising a recognition of our demand, seemed unlikely to be accompanied with a monetary return of the outlay necessarily attendant upon a protracted

law-suit. Under the circumstances set forth, we do not think that any but the publishing firm referred to will blame our decision to withdraw from an unprofitable position, even at a little cost, preferring to devote our funds to the advancement of pharmacy, rather than the vindication of a sentiment, however justly founded.

Our contemporary further complains that the notices, which have been published in our pages on the subject, have produced the impression that it was "hostile to the Society," an impression which, it states, is "proved to be absolutely baseless." How far the latter statement is true can be judged by our readers from the letter, which we published in our last issue, from Mr. H. T. Tompsitt, in which he exposed the efforts that had been made in its pages to misrepresent the motives by which himself and other members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia were actuated in labouring to bring about the forthcoming conference. If further evidence be required of that hostile spirit, we need only refer to a circular recently issued from its offices, the introduction into which of such paltry questions as the title of the Society leaves little doubt that the intention of its framers is to create a feeling of jealousy against Victoria throughout the other colonies—an attempt which we have too much faith in the good sense of pharmacists generally to believe will be attended with any success. Indeed, our contemporary makes no secret that the cause of pharmaceutical progress, which we have so deeply at heart, is a matter of, at least, but secondary interest to its conductors. "We come here," it tells us, "to vindicate the commercial honour of our proprietors" (whatever that may mean). . . . "We have accomplished the purpose for which we came, and remain to maintain the reputation of our firm," &c. How far a journal, which thus cynically announces its indifference to everything but the interests of its proprietary, is deserving the support of colonial pharmacists we leave to them to decide; but, on its own showing, there is no call for us, as yet, to alter the page in which we announce ourselves as "*the only organ of pharmacy in the Australasian Colonies.*"

Meetings.

THE PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA.

THE monthly meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria was held at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, Melbourne, on Wednesday, the 8th September, 1886.

Present—Messrs. Blackett, Brind, Francis, Owen, Strut, and Tompsitt.

The president (Mr. C. Blackett) in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION.

The following applicants having furnished the necessary statutory declarations as to their qualifications, were duly registered as pharmaceutical chemists:—

George Bunyon Sirett, Melbourne, pharmaceutical chemist, Great Britain.

Richard Richardson, registered under the Pharmacy Act of Great Britain, 34 Lonsdale-street, Melbourne.

The following applications also were dealt with:—

Phillip Adam Cadell, Carlton, eligible to pass the modified examination.

Abraham Taylor, Elmore; Henry Marks, Kerr-street, Fitzroy; and John Batty Hudson, Corowa, postponed.

APPRENTICES INDENTURES REGISTERED.

William John Pollard Lee, apprenticed to Mr. W. Mercer, Daylesford.

CERTIFICATES UNDER SALE AND USE OF POISONS ACT

Were granted to :—

Chas. H. M'Kenzie Ogilvie, Cobden.
Thos. B. Dungey, Kaniva.

IN RE G. A. DIMOCK.

The Registrar reported that the order on appeal had been submitted to the applicant's solicitors, and it is their duty now to move in the matter if they wish the application heard and determined.

POLICE REPORTS.

The Police Department brought under the notice of the Board, cases in which unregistered assistants were employed in St. Kilda and other suburbs, and also the case of a prescription which was wrongly dispensed and contained a poisonous dose. After some difficulty the person to whom the prescription was given, was found, and the medicine is now in the hands of the police. The reports were received.

THE QUARTERLY EXAMINATIONS.

The examiners report as follows :—

Preliminary Examination.—Sixteen candidates; eight passed.

Practical Pharmacy Examination before the Board.—Six candidates; two passed.

The following are the names of those who passed in their order of merit :—

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION, 1ST SEPTEMBER.

Herbert Schutt, Spottiswood.
Francis Dawson, Stawell.
Henry Harse, Clifton Hill.
William John Bonas, Clifton Hill.
Thomas B. Huntsman, Fitzroy.
Arthur Ogg, St. Kilda.
Felix W. Kruse, Fitzroy.
J. H. Kilgour, South Melbourne.

Sixteen candidates presented themselves for this examination.

PRACTICAL PHARMACY, MAJOR EXAMINATION, BEFORE THE WHOLE BOARD, 6TH
AND 7TH SEPTEMBER.

Alfred Gamson, Ararat.
Henry De Baere, Beaufort.

Six candidates presented themselves.

NAMES ERASED FROM THE PHARMACEUTICAL REGISTER.

The names of the following deceased persons were erased from the Register :—

George Lewis, Windsor.
Daniel Rutter Long, Armadale,
William Carruthers, Flemington-road, Hotham.

THE LATE MR. G. LEWIS.

On the motion of Mr. C. R. Blackett, seconded by Mr. Brind, it was unanimously resolved that a letter of condolence be forwarded to the family of the deceased gentleman, and that a record be placed on the minutes of the Board in recognition and appreciation of his past service as Treasurer.

ALTERATION OF THE SUBJECTS OF THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

The following alteration, which is to be submitted to the Governor-in-Council for approval, was agreed to :—

Latin.—Grammar—Translation of simple sentences from English into Latin. Translation into English of a paragraph from Cæsar. (De Bello Gallieo, Book I., or Virgil-Æneid, Book I.)

In each examination paper a passage from both of the authors will be given, but a candidate will be required to translate only one of such passages.

The examiner for the Preliminary Examination adds the following note to his report to the registrar on the last examinations:—"As on former occasions, the candidates show great weakness in Latin, and especially in Latin grammar, which they seem never to have seriously worked at. I should like to make the suggestion that candidates would find it beneficial to work through, under proper supervision, a series of papers on Latin grammar, such as may be found at the end of Dr. Smith's 'Appendix Principia Latina, Part I.' If candidates would take the trouble to do something of the sort, carefully referring to their grammars, and having their work properly examined, I am convinced it would greatly tend to reduce the per centage of failures in that subject. Could you convey the suggestion in any way to all who would be likely to become candidates for the preliminary?"

The ordinary correspondence and general business brought the meeting to a close.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

The monthly meeting of the Council was held at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, Melbourne, on Friday, the 10th September, 1886.

Present—Messrs. Baker, Francis, Harrison, Huntsman, Cooper, Kingsland, and Tompsitt.

Mr. T. Huntsman in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Apologies were received from Messrs. Blackett, Gamble, and Brinsmead.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following new members were balloted for and duly elected:—

John Lambert Nicholson, Formby, Tasmania.

Duncan Rankin, St. Kilda.

Henry Skarratt Brothwood, Leichardt, Sydney.

Wm. Geo. Cox, Launceston.

Henry George King Wells, Ullverston, Tasmania.

THE INTERCOLONIAL PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

The committee submitted their report and also the programme of the business to be dealt with, which is printed in full elsewhere. At the next meeting of the council the names of all the delegates will be made public. Messrs. Tompsitt and Shillinglaw were appointed a reception committee. The report was received and adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A number of letters were read and dealt with, but as the pressure on our space is unusually heavy this month, we are compelled to curtail our report.

THE LATE MR. G. LEWIS.

It was unanimously resolved that the council place on record its high appreciation of the very valuable aid rendered by the late Mr. Lewis to the Pharmaceutical Society during the past thirty years.

Financial and general business then brought the meeting to a close.

The Month.

THE examination papers for the quarterly examinations held this month are crowded out, and will appear in our next issue.

AT a meeting held in Sandhurst on 1st September it was resolved to amalgamate the Friendly Societies' Dispensary and Medical Institute. In each the members exceed 2000.

WE have received from the Hon. Secretary of the South Suburban Chemists' Association the alterations, &c., in their price-list, but are unable to find space for it in this issue.

WE notice that information specially supplied to this journal is "adapted" and reprinted without the slightest acknowledgement. In future we shall be glad to see the source acknowledged.

THE quarterly meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia was held at the College of Pharmacy on the evening of the 10th September, when Mr. T. Kingsland read his promised paper on "The Rights and Privileges of Chemists to Prescribe." The attendance was not large, and pressure on our space compels us to hold over a detailed report.

IN the Banco Court, on 18th August, Mr. Edward Marks sued the Victorian Pyrites Company for breach of an agreement to sell to him a quantity of arsenic merchantable and according to sample, alleging that in consequence of the defendants not supplying him with the proper arsenic he had sustained considerable loss. His Honour Mr. Justice Kerferd gave a verdict for plaintiff for £55.

OUR readers will learn with regret that another of the beautiful white swans in the Melbourne Botanical Gardens has succumbed to poisoning by arsenic. This makes a total of five birds (out of six) which have died during the past two years from this cause, as proved by Mr. William Johnson, the Government analytical chemist. No reason can be imagined for the commission of such outrages, the deaths having, without doubt, been purposely caused.

IN consequence of a statement made by Mr. J. R. Gray, of Wedderburn, to the effect that colonial wine sold in Wedderburn was not made of the juice of the grape, but was "fabricated" in Melbourne, nine samples were procured by the Customs officers, and analysed by Mr. W. Johnson, the Government analyst. Mr. Johnson has reported to the effect that the strength of alcohol in the samples submitted to him range from 9 to 13 per cent., that they are the pure juice of the grape, and that they present no indication of having been fabricated.

WE have received, since our last issue, a cablegram from our London agent submitting an offer made through him by Messrs. Morgan Bros. to purchase this journal. A letter on the subject has also been addressed to Mr. Bowen, who is at present in London, in which a threat is made—that "obviously the rejection of the proposal will be a matter of some moment." We presume this forms portion of the "vindication of the commercial honour" scheme, about which we heard last month. It is, perhaps, unnecessary to say the offer was politely declined.

AT a meeting of the Council of the Melbourne University held on Monday, 16th August, the following appointments of examiners were made:—Chemistry and Practical Chemistry—Professors M'Coy and Masson. *Materia Medica*, Therapeutics, and Medical Botany—Dr. Wm. Snowball and Dr. Bennie. Descriptive and Surgical Anatomy—Professor Halford and Mr. F. D. Bird. Physiology, Physiological Chemistry, and Histology—Professor Allen and Mr. W. Moore. Theory and Practice of Medicine—Drs. Williams and Bage. Surgery—Mr. Howitt and Mr. Charles Ryan. Forensic Medicine—Drs. Jamieson and Graham.

IN the Assembly, on 18th August, the question of offering a bonus of £1000 for the growth and manufacture of such dried fruits as are at present imported having been introduced by Mr. Graham, Mr. Gillies said that the matter was already under the consideration of the Government, and, if there was any justification in adopting the proposed course, the matter would be brought under the notice of Parliament. The manufacture of dried fruits would, he said, become a large industry in the colony, and the Irrigation Bill would do much to bring about the results. He further added that a bonus for the establishment of a cannery, on the principle of those in America, would form part of the same scheme.

It appears that of the ensilage exhibits at the recent National Agricultural Show the only sample of a sour silage which had attained success in the matter of keeping was an exhibit of maize, which was in very good condition, perfectly free from mould, and not fermenting. Mr. Pearson, the Government agricultural chemist, intends to prosecute some interesting experiments with the view of ascertaining whether there may be any chemical reason for the keeping quality of some kinds of silage and the non-keeping quality of others, and for this purpose has applied for samples of the exhibits above referred to. Mr. Pearson thinks that the question might be decided by a systematic study of the chemistry of the silo, which he proposes to undertake when the new agricultural laboratory is organised. The result will be awaited with no little interest.

In our July issue we gave under the heading of "Poisoning Cases" some particulars relative to the death of Richard Kinvig, at Dimboola, in which it was mentioned that a sleeping draught supplied by the local chemist, Mr. D'Albites, contained two drachms of morphia and half a drachm of chloral hydrate. Mr. D'Albites writes to deny the correctness of this statement, and gives the "facts" as follows:—"The draught contained one grain of morphia (5ij solution) and 30 grains chloral. It was a draught deceased had long been in the habit of taking, and two medical men stated that in such a case they could not say it was too strong. I am in a position to state that orders were received to drop the matter, and very wisely too." Mr. D'Albites assumes quite gratuitously in his letter that our paragraph was copied from the report of a "daily paper." Such was not the case, the report as published having been furnished to the Pharmacy Board by the police authorities.

AT Messrs. Felton, Grimwade and Co.'s Jeffcott-street establishment on 31st August, the manager, Mr. John Jackson, was presented, on the occasion of his retirement through failing health, with a testimonial as a mark of the respect and esteem in which he is held by his fellow-employés. The presentation was made by his successor, Mr. J. K. Forrest, who, in a few well-chosen words, referred to Mr. Jackson's long and faithful services to the firm, and the kindness and consideration which he had always displayed to those over whom he was placed in authority. Mr. W. Hamilton, as the oldest employé in the factory, having added a few remarks expressive of their sincere wish that he would be speedily restored to such a measure of health and strength as would enable him to enjoy many happy years to come, Mr. Jackson feelingly thanked those present for their gift, which he would always treasure as a reminder of the many pleasant years he had worked with them. He considered it highly creditable, both to the firm and their employés, that so few changes had taken place among them during so long a period, and he trusted that the good feeling which had existed between them and himself would continue to exist between them and his successor, Mr. Forrest, to whom he wished every success. On the 2nd inst. Mr. Jackson was also presented at the Flinders-lane warehouse by Mr. Flint, accountant to the

firm, with an elegant silver-plated jug and goblet with inlaid gilt chasing, as a souvenir from the rest of the staff, when similar sentiments were expressed by both presenter and recipient, after which Mr. Jackson's health was enthusiastically drunk by those present, and feelingly responded to.

AN interesting letter from Mr. William Bowen, president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, giving an account of his experiences in Yankee land, has been placed at our disposal, from which we make the following extracts. Of the people generally, he says:—"I like them very much. I found less of Yankeeism than I expected. When once properly introduced they are exceedingly kind and sociable." Among other gentlemen whom he met in New York, special mention is made of Dr. Rice, of the Bellevue Hospital, who has entire control of the Department of Public Charities of the State of New York, and takes an active part in the management of the College of Pharmacy, and "who appears to be thoroughly familiar with the proceedings of our society and college in Victoria." From the President of the college, Mr. M'Intyre, and the members, Mr. Bowen met with a most gratifying reception. A meeting, to which he was specially invited, terminated in a champagne supper, at which he was entertained by as "generous and jovial a company as ever I met in my life." Speaking of the college, Mr. Bowen says:—"The laboratory is fitted up in a very similar style to our own, but capable of accommodating four or five times as many students; the lecture hall has raised seats, the lecturer taking his position on the floor." While in Philadelphia, where the attention paid to him by Mr. Warner is specially mentioned, Mr. Bowen was present at a monthly meeting of the society, of which he says:—"It was of a thoroughly practical character, any member relating and discussing his various observations in dispensing, etc., since the previous meeting. The discussions were all carried on in a general, conversational style, and were very entertaining. I am promised to have a full description of the proceedings, with the curriculum and all information respecting the college, forwarded to Melbourne." We must postpone references to Mr. Bowen's experiences in England until our next issue, but the nature of these may be inferred from the following sentence:—"I am writing the latter portion of this in Glasgow, having just started on a three-weeks trip through Scotland and Ireland, somewhat glad, to tell you the truth, to escape for a time from the high pressure of London hospitalities."

A VERY unpleasant business was ventilated early in the month. It had been alleged that the contractors for the supply of medicines to the Ballarat Hospital, Messrs. Cornell and King, had substituted inferior drugs for those specified in the contract. A sub-committee appointed to inquire into the matter reported the discovery of overcharges in the drug account to the amount of £90 18s. 3d., and that an article found upon analysis to be destitute of any trace of quinine, had been supplied in place of Howard's citrate of iron and quinine. The sub-committee recommended that Messrs. Cornell and King be prohibited from tendering for drugs in the future. The report was adopted, and it was agreed that the drug complained of should be sent to the manufacturers (Fletcher, Fletcher, and Stevenson), with a request for an explanation. Messrs. Cornell and King attempted to dispose of the overcharge question by refunding the amount stated; but they had no better answer to make to the complaint that they had supplied a different and inferior article to that contracted for, than to produce a letter of complaint which they had addressed to Messrs. Felton, Grimwade and Co. (from whom the article had been purchased), and that firm's reply. Messrs. Felton, Grimwade and Co. are to be commiserated upon having their name thus gratuitously connected with this unsavoury business, and the

production of the correspondence referred to, cannot but be regarded as a very contemptible subterfuge to distract attention from the real point at issue. Unhappily for Messrs. Cornell and King that point is not likely to be lost sight of. The contractors, agreeing to supply a certain article, purchased and supplied an inferior one; and the production of a misleading complaint about the quality of a drug supplied according to their order, but of an avowedly inferior quality to that contracted to be supplied by them, will strike the most careless reader as on a par with the rest of Messrs. Cornell and King's share in a most disreputable transaction. Messrs. Felton, Grimwade and Co. have been at some pains to explain their position in regard to the affair. But it needs no explanation. They supplied Cornell and King with the article ordered by them, the price of which at once proclaimed it of the inferior quality which Cornell and King considered suitable to the requirements of Ballarat invalids, while not forgetting to charge for the superior article specified in the contract. That Messrs. Felton, Grimwade and Co. were not responsible for the quality of the article supplied to them by the manufacturers, must be apparent to all but Cornell and King, who expressly ordered it.

SOUTH SUBURBAN CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.

A QUARTERLY meeting of the South Suburban Chemists' Association was held at Windsor on Tuesday, 7th September, 1886.

Present—Mr. Witt (chair), Messrs. Corinaldi, Harrison, Cockram, Dalton, Niemann, Hicks, and Chamberlin.

Correspondence:—Mr. Ross wrote stating that he had been charged with keeping open after 9 o'clock, and denying the charge. Resolved—That secretary reply that the members present regret that Mr. Ross has suffered from outside assertions; that no official charge has been made against him.

From Mr. Niemann, wishing to join the S.S.C.A. if the Brighton chemists also became members. Secretary stated that he had written asking them to attend meeting of 7th September. Received.

From Mr. Brinsmead, stating inability to attend meeting. Received.

It was proposed by G. F. Chamberlin—"That, as the objects for which the Association was formed are now an accomplished fact, and expenses considerably reduced, the annual subscription be reduced to 5s., and the annual supper be charged 5s. for each gentleman present." Seconded by Mr. Dalton. Carried.

Resolved—That notice be sent to members requesting payment of the current subscriptions, and that the names of those not paying be read at next meeting, and that their non-compliance be received as a withdrawal from the Association.

Proposed by Mr. Corinaldi that members be informed by circular when the supper is to take place at least eight days before, and be requested to signify if it is their intention to be present.

A sub-committee was appointed to arrange the supper, consisting of the president, Messrs. Corinaldi, Dalton, and the secretary.

On the motion of Mr. Dalton, it was resolved that the Pharmaceutical Society be written to, urging the necessity of instituting a Trade Protection Association for the purpose of providing funds for carrying out the Pharmacy Act amendments.

Resolved—That a letter be written to Messrs. Rocke, Tompsitt and Co., stating that a traveller was calling on chemists, storekeepers, &c., stating that he was travelling for their firm, and pushing an article manufactured by them (Balm of Solazzi and Aniseed). Mr. Corinaldi stated that he did not believe the firm either manufactured the article or sent out a special traveller on it, and thought Mr. Tompsitt ought to be made acquainted with the facts.

Secretary read a list of Addenda et Corrigenda to the S.S.C. price-list, with a few alterations. It was resolved that the list be adopted and forwarded to the *Journal of Pharmacy* for publication.

Proposed by Mr. Dalton—That the Brighton chemists, Messrs. Hicks, Niemann, and Stevens, be received as full members for the remainder of the current year, and supplied with lists. Carried.

The meeting then adjourned.

The following correspondence has been handed to us for publication:—
Messrs. Rocke, Tompsitt & Co, Melbourne,

GENTLEMEN,—I am requested by the South Suburban Chemists' Association to inform you that it was stated at the meeting held on Tuesday, 7th September, that a special traveller, professing to represent your firm, has been soliciting orders for a preparation made by you (Balm of Solazzi and Aniseed). He has called on chemists and also their next-door neighbours, grocers, and storekeepers. Knowing your warm sympathy with the retail chemists and their grievances, it was suggested that you ought to be made cognisant of the fact, that you may be able to take means to repudiate the connection; and that we may be allowed to publish this letter, and your reply in *The Journal of Pharmacy* for this month.—I have the honour to be, gentlemen, yours obediently,

G. F. CHAMBERLIN.

9th September, 1886.

Mr. G. F. Chamberlin, Hon. Secretary South Suburban Chemists Association.

DEAR SIR,—We have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your favour of 9th inst. re Balm of Solazzi and Aniseed, and in reply, we beg to say that we have no travellers in our employment pushing the sale of the article in question; that we are neither proprietors nor manufacturers of it, and have no more pecuniary interest in it than we have in Cockle's Pills, Clarke's Blood Mixture, or any other of the hundred and one patent medicines, in connection with which our name is daily advertised in the public prints as agents or vendors. You are at liberty to print this correspondence, or make whatever use you please of it.—Yours faithfully,

ROCKE, TOMPSITT AND CO.

INTERCOLONIAL PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

THE following circular has been addressed to the secretaries of the various Australasian Pharmaceutical Societies:—

MELBOURNE (Victoria), August, 1886.

DEAR SIR,—In the month of April last a preliminary circular on the subject of the proposed Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference was addressed by a joint committee from the Pharmaceutical Society and Pharmacy Board of Victoria to the Pharmaceutical Societies and Boards in the Australasian colonies and New Zealand, inviting representatives to be present at a Conference to be held in Melbourne on the 27th, 28th, and 29th of October, 1886, in order to bring about uniformity in the educational qualifications required of pharmaceutical chemists in the Australasian colonies, and to promote reciprocity in the recognition of certificates; and, further, to discuss any matter that might be brought forward on which it is considered that joint legislation or action would be desirable. In reply to this invitation, the colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand, South Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania decided to send delegates, and it is a source of satisfaction to be able to report that the most cordial wishes for the success of the Conference have been expressed by all the colonies who are unable to attend.

The committee have carefully considered the programme, appended, which forms the business to be dealt with by the first Intercolonial Conference, and are of opinion that, by limiting the number and nature of the resolutions, a much greater probability of the general acceptance of the scheme will be secured; and it is earnestly hoped that the annexed programme, to be submitted to the Conference, will be thoroughly discussed before the delegates leave their respective colonies, so that some finality may be arrived at.—I am, yours faithfully,

HARRY SHILLINGLAW, Acting Honorary Secretary.

FIRST DAY, WEDNESDAY, 27TH OCTOBER.

The business of the first Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference will commence on Wednesday, the 27th October, at 10 o'clock a.m., at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, Melbourne, when an "Address of Welcome" will open the proceedings.

CALLING OF DELEGATES.—The names of the delegates having been called, the meeting will proceed to the election of a president and secretary.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.—First Resolution—That a uniform system of education throughout Australasia is desirable, such system to embrace—(a) Preliminary examination, to include the same subjects as required by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. (b) Apprenticeship of four years. (c) Course of study, based upon the course adopted by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. (d) Examinations to be conducted by examiners appointed by boards, councils, or governing body:—1. The mode of conducting examinations to be both written and oral in every subject. 2. The subjects of examinations to embrace botany, *materia medica*, chemistry and practical chemistry (to be conducted, as far as practicable, in conformity with the practice in Great Britain), and practical pharmacy (as conducted in Victoria).

SECOND DAY, THURSDAY, 28TH OCTOBER.

Second Resolution—The desirability of uniformity in Australasian pharmaceutical legislation. In order to facilitate the discussion of this subject, it is strongly urged that the delegates from each colony should be furnished with copies of the Acts in force or proposed to be enacted in their respective colonies. Third Resolution—Uniformity in the laws relating to the sale and use of poisons and regulations for their custody. It is also suggested as in the previous clause.

THIRD DAY, FRIDAY, 29TH OCTOBER.

Fourth Resolution—Interchange of certificates. That, on adopting and giving effect to Resolution I., the examination certificates shall be recognised by the governing bodies of the various colonies. Fifth Resolution—That the rapid increase in the trade of proprietary medicines and secret nostrums is antagonistic to the true interest of pharmacy.

Apropos of the Conference, the following letter from Professor Attfield to Mr. Rocke (Rocke, Tompsitt and Co.) will be read with interest:—

DEAR MR. ROCKE,—I thank you for the copy of the April circular relating to the Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference. I do trust, for the welfare of Australasian pharmacy and pharmacists, that due prominence will be given at the Conference to the relation which (C) the course of study and (D) the examinations should bear to each other. If examination alone be depended on as a test of the knowledge possessed by a candidate, that knowledge will—according to the irresistible operation of the law of demand and supply—become (after the first year or so of the examinations) superficial and ephemeral knowledge. Mere examination *cannot* distinguish between this temporary stuff and that real, lasting knowledge which is serviceable alike to the candidate himself, his calling, and the community. Every good examiner knows this to be true, and every authority on education has long known it to be true. In Great Britain we have only found all this out by bitter experience; and, though we are all agreed as to the remedy, the difficulty of counteracting the evil *now* is enormous. The remedy is to require every candidate, before he enters the examination-room, to show by a proper schedule that he has regularly and profitably attended a publicly-conducted, properly-supervised, sound course of study. The examiners, knowing that the course of study is trustworthy, that the teachers are trustworthy, and that the candidate has only got his schedule signed after showing at weekly *tutorial* classes that he has really learned what he was set to learn, will have the comparatively easy task of ascertaining by a few questions that teacher and candidate have done their respective duties. I do implore the Conference to begin by demanding this relationship between education and examination; the evils and difficulties we now find so stupendous will thus, in the colonies, never arise.

Yours faithfully,

17 Bloomsbury-square, London, 15th July.

JOHN ATTFIELD.

THE composition of the well-known vermin killer, "Rough on Rats," is said to be arsenious oxide, coloured with charcoal. The hydrated oxide of iron is recommended as an antidote.

THE PROSECUTION OF THE EQUITABLE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LIMITED.

(Specially reported for *The Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.*)

At the District Police Court, Melbourne, on Thursday, the 9th September, 1886, before Messrs. Joseph Anderson Panton, P.M. (Chairman), J. M'Donald, Bear, Rappiport, and Lewis Sanders, J's.P., the Equitable Co-operative Society, Limited, carrying on business at 89 Collins-street East, Melbourne, was summoned by Mr. H. W. Shillinglaw, Registrar to the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, for that on the 26th August, 1886, at Melbourne, in the Central Bailiwick, being a Society registered duly in pursuance of the provisions of "The Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1873," and not being a registered Pharmaceutical Chemist, did carry on business as a chemist and druggist contrary to the Statute in such case made and provided.

The defendant Society was further summoned by the same informant for a second similar breach of the Statute, alleged to have been committed on the 26th August, 1886, and likewise for a third and fourth similar infringement of the Statute, alleged to have been committed on the 31st August, 1886.

Mr. Isaacs, instructed by Messrs. Emerson and Barrow, for the complainant; and Dr. M'Inerney, instructed by Messrs. Lynch and M'Donald, for the defendant Company.

Mr. Isaacs: If your Worships please, I appear on behalf of Mr. Shillinglaw, the informant in this case. This is a prosecution on information under the Pharmacy Act, No. 558, against the Equitable Co-operative Society, Limited. It is under these circumstances. The information is against the Equitable Co-operative Society for carrying on the business of a chemist and druggist, that Society not being, as indeed it could not be, a registered Pharmaceutical Chemist. The section under which the information is laid is Section Twenty-five, which provides that "From and after six months after the date of the first appointment of the Board"—that is the Pharmacy Board mentioned in the Act—"any person who commits, in Victoria, any of the following offences shall, on conviction thereof, be liable to a penalty of not exceeding £10 for each offence, and may also be committed to prison for any period not exceeding six months;" and the first subdivision:—"Any person not a registered Pharmaceutical Chemist who carries on, or attempts to carry on, business as a chemist and druggist or homœopathic chemist or either." And we allege, and I think will prove most conclusively, that on the 26th August this year this Society, being a Society registered under an Act of Parliament of Victoria called "The Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1873," and not being a registered Pharmaceutical Chemist, did carry on business as a chemist and druggist; and prove to your Worships that a prescription made up by a legally qualified medical practitioner was presented at the Equitable Society's stores, went into this place where all the business is carried on, was dispensed there, paid for, and has been analysed. We will show the contents of it, and will give a formal proof; and I do not think I shall occupy very much time in doing this.

The Chairman: Does anyone appear for the Company?

Dr. M'Inerney: My friend did not have the courtesy to ask who appeared for the defendant. The Society at present does not appear. Mr. Nuttall has been served with the summons, and on behalf of Mr. Nuttall I appear.

Mr. Isaacs: Well, this is charming innocence! Mr. Nuttall has no *locus standi* here at all. Mr. Nuttall is not summoned to appear, and Mr. Nuttall has no position whatever; and, of course, I object to anyone appearing that is not summoned. It is the Equitable Co-operative Society, Limited, No. 89 Collins-street East, that is summoned. That is the only person that can appear. Nobody else is summoned, and it does not require any learned gentleman to come here and tell us that the Society does not appear.

The Chairman: Very well. Proceed with your ease.

Dr. M'Inerney: If your Worships would permit me, in another form I might put it—

Mr. Isaacs: My friend has no right to appear. My friend does not appear.

Dr. M'Inerney: I am addressing their Worships now. As I said to your Worships, a summons has been served on Mr. Nuttall, professing to be addressed to the Equitable Co-operative Society. If it is addressed to them, in your Worships' opinion, I will appear to take exception to the summons. I will ask that the service of the summons be proved.

The Chairman: I only know the case before the Bench is that against the Society.

Dr. M'Inerney: The Society then will appear for the purpose of objecting to the service of the summons, and they say that they have not been served at all. It is under the Justices of the Peace Statute, which reads, "Every summons"—(to the Chairman of the Bench): Might I ask have you a copy of the summons?

The Chairman: No; I have no copy of the summons.

Dr. M'Inerney: Then I ask, in the first place, that the service of the summons be proved?

Mr. Isaacs: Well, this is most irregular.
(Summons put in).

The Chairman: The summons is endorsed, "Served at the registered office of the said Society."

Dr. M'Inerney: May I see the endorsement on the summons?

Mr. Isaacs: My friend has no right to see it.

The Chairman (to Dr. M'Inerney): Do you appear?

Dr. M'Inerney: To take an exception to the service of the summons.

The Chairman: If he did not see the summons he need not appear. If you do appear we will assume the summons is correct.

Dr. M'Inerney: Mr. Nuttall, or the Company, has been served, and the Company then appear to take exception to the service of the summons upon them, and they say, and submit to your Worships, that, under the Justices of the Peace Statute, a Company cannot be summoned at all before this Court—that the 65th Section of the Justices of the Peace Statute provides that "Every summons shall be served within a reasonable time before the hearing thereof by a constable, or peace officer, or other person upon the party to whom it is so directed by delivering a true copy thereof to the party personally, or by leaving the same with some person for him at his last or most usual place of abode;" and then proceeds to provide that the constable shall make an endorsement, and attend and say how he served the summons. On that summons it does not appear to be served personally on this Company. Of course as to that it is a matter of impossibility. Then, in the next place, under "The Industrial and Provident Societies Act," under which it is stated this Society is registered and received incorporation, there are no provisions that it shall be served by leaving it at the registered office, or leaving it with the servants of the Company. Consequently the people who are addressed in this summons, the Equitable Co-operative Society, say they have not been properly served, and they submit that to your Worships.

Mr. Isaacs: I do not know if your Worships require an answer to this?

The Chairman: No, I do not. Proceed with your case.

Henry Alfred M. Broomfield, sworn, said: I am law clerk to Messrs. Emerson and Barrow, solicitors for the informant. I have seen the summons just handed in. That is my signature to it, and I served it as described in the endorsement.

Mr. Isaacs: I put in the *Government Gazette* for Tuesday, 6th February, 1877, headed "The Pharmacy Board of Victoria"—"The Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to appoint Joseph Bosisto, Esq., M.P.," and certain other gentlemen named to be the Pharmacy Board of Victoria in pursuance of the provisions of the Pharmacy Act 1876 (No. 558). Joseph Bosisto, Esq., M.P., to be the President of the Board.—JOHN A. M'PHERSON, Chief Secretary.—Chief Secretary's office, Melbourne, 5th February, 1877.

Harry William Shillinglaw, sworn, said: I am the informant in this case. I am the Registrar of the Pharmacy Board. I produce my appointment as Registrar under the seal of the Pharmacy Board. I produce the original minute of the Board authorising me to prosecute on their behalf.

Dr. M'Inerney: By whom were these minutes made?

Witness: By whom are they written?

Dr. M'Inerney: Yes.

Witness: By myself.

Dr. M'Inerney: Who authorised you to make them?

Witness: They are done by the Pharmacy Board.

Dr. M'Inerney: Let me look at them, please.

Mr. Isaacs: You are not entitled to look at them till they are tendered. (To the witness): By whom are they signed?

Witness: By the President of the Pharmacy Board.

Mr. Isaacs: Now I tender them, and you (Dr. M'Inerney) can look at them.

(The minutes were put in.)

Witness (to Mr. Isaacs): The date of the minute is 11th August, 1886, confirmed on the 8th September, 1886.

Mr. Isaacs (to Dr. M'Inerney): Have you got a letter of the 14th January, 1886?

Dr. M'Inerney: No.

Mr. Isaacs (to witness): Have you got a press copy of a letter of the 14th January, 1886—a copy of a letter which you sent to the Equitable Co-operative Society?

Witness: Yes.

Letter produced and read, as follows:—

"Melbourne, 14th January, 1886.

"SIR,—I have the honour, by direction, to forward herewith a copy of the Amended Pharmacy Act 1885, and to direct your attention to the 10th section of the same.

"I have the honour to be, sir,

"Your most obedient servant,

"HARRY SHILLINGLAW, Registrar.

"The Manager of the Equitable Co-operative Society, Limited, Melbourne."

Witness: I got this in reply from the Secretary of the Company.
Letter produced and read by Mr. Isaacs, as follows:—

“Equitable Co-operative Society, Limited,
“89 Collins-street East, Melbourne, 22nd January, 1886.

“H. Shillinglaw, Esq., Registrar Pharmacy Board.

“DEAR SIR,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 14th inst., drawing our attention to the 10th section of the Amended Pharmacy Act 1885, and have to intimate to you that we shall be happy to comply with the provisions of this section if you will kindly drop a line saying in what way compliance is required on our part, and whether there has hitherto been any reason to find fault with our past action in relation thereto.—Yours truly,

“W. NUTTALL, Secretary.”

Witness: After that I called on Mr. Nuttall at the Society's office. I had a conversation with Mr. Nuttall with reference to what would be compliance with the Act. He asked me what would be compliance with the Act, and I pointed out and told him that compliance with the Act would be to discontinue what he was at present doing—dispensing prescriptions, and that portion of the business which constituted an infringement of the Act. I told him that the Company could not carry on business under the Act. On the 28th of April I received this letter, dated 27th April, 1886.

Letter produced and read, as follows:—

“Equitable Co-operative Society, Limited,

“89 Collins-street East, Melbourne, 27th April, 1886.

“DEAR SIR,—We observe from the Pharmaceutical Register for 1885, issued this year, that our chemist, Jas. Crosbie Goold, is entered as residing or doing business at 91 Cecil-street, South Melbourne. Will you please say by bearer if any other address has been furnished you by him, and if so, what address. We believe another has been furnished. Your kind attention will oblige.—*Pro the Society,*

“WILLIAM NUTTALL, Secretary.

“Harry William Shillinglaw, Esq.,

“Secretary and Registrar, the Pharmacy Board of Victoria.”

Witness: I sent a message that the only address I had was 91 Cecil-street, South Melbourne.

The Chairman: You would infer from that that he had changed his address?

Witness: I received no intimation that he had changed his address. His address that I received was 91 Cecil-street, South Melbourne.

Dr. M'Inerney: What was the date of the letter?

Witness: The 27th April, 1886. After I received the letter dated 27th April, 1886, I got a letter from Mr. Goold.

Letter produced and read by Mr. Isaacs, as follows:—

“89 Collins-street East, Melbourne,

“H. Shillinglaw, Esq.

“25th June, 1886.

“DEAR SIR,—Being about to remove from my present residence, ‘Beaconsfield Parade St. Kilda,’ it being very cold for the winter months, would you kindly have my address recorded as above for the future, and oblige—Yours truly,

“JAMES C. GOOLD.”

Witness: I recorded his address accordingly.

The Chairman: Is that the address of the Company?

Mr. Isaacs: Yes.

Witness: I know Mr. Scott. He is in the employment of the Pharmacy Board, and under my directions. I gave him instructions to get a prescription from a medical man, and to get it dispensed; and some time after that he reported to me what he had done.

Mr. Isaacs: By the way, you produce the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists?

Witness: I do, and also the Medical Register.

Mr. Isaacs: Is the name of the Equitable Co-operative Society in either of these?

Witness: It is not.

Dr. M'Inerney: You have the Pharmaceutical Register before you?

Witness: I have.

Dr. M'Inerney: Is the name of James C. Goold on that Register?

Witness: It is.

Dr. M'Inerney: What is the address opposite that name?

Witness: The address since the 25th June—

Dr. M'Inerney: What was the address on the 26th August this year?

Witness: 89 Collins-street East, Melbourne.

Dr. M'Inerney: He is a duly qualified Pharmaceutical Chemist?

Witness: He is registered under the Pharmacy Act.

Mr. Isaacs: I produce the rules of the Society, and two certificates by Mr. John Burslem Gregory, Registrar of Friendly Societies. This:—“I hereby certify that the foregoing rules of the Equitable Co-operative Society, Limited, are in conformity with the law, and that

the said Society is duly established from the present date, and is subject to the provisions and entitled to the privileges of 'The Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1873.' Given under my hand this 22nd day of April, 1882.—JOHN BURSLEM GREGORY." And his seal is appended. There is another certificate, both certificates being in the form approved by the Act:—"I, John Burslem Gregory, Registrar of Friendly Societies, hereby certify that the Equitable Co-operative Society, Limited, established at Melbourne, is registered under 'The Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1873.'" This is signed by Mr. Gregory as Registrar, and sealed with his seal as Registrar. These rules will show a previous registered address. Since then they have, in compliance with the Act, lodged other rules, also certified to by Mr. Gregory. These are certified to by him as Registrar, and sealed by him, and dated the 27th of August, 1885, showing the registered address of the Society to be 89 Collins-street East, Melbourne. And I produce the *Government Gazette*, dated 28th April, 1882, with the statutory notice of registration, dated the 22nd April, 1882, also under the hand of the Registrar—that is the *Government Gazette* for 1882, page 940.

Patrick R. Scott, sworn, said: I am a laboratory assistant in the College of Pharmacy. I am assistant to Professor Jackson, and I am under the direction of Mr. Shillinglaw. I was sent by Mr. Shillinglaw to a medical gentleman to get a prescription. I got a prescription.

Mr. Isaacs: Where is it?

Witness: This is it.

(Prescription produced.)

The Chairman: What was the result?

Mr. Isaacs: You got this from Dr. Brown?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Isaacs: What did you do with it?

Witness: I took it to the Equitable Co-operative Society, and got it dispensed.

Mr. Isaacs: At what address?

Witness: 89 Collins-street East.

Mr. Isaacs: What name did you see over the door?

Witness: The Equitable Co-operative Society, Limited.

Mr. Isaacs: What part of the building did you go into?

Witness: The dispensing and patent medicine department.

Mr. Isaacs: What sort of a room did you go in?

Witness: A large room on the ground floor; right-hand side.

Mr. Isaacs: Tell us what sort of a room it is. What goods are exposed for sale there?

Witness: There is the medicine department, ironmongery, and grocery.

Mr. Isaacs: All—medicine, ironmongery, and grocery—in the one room?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Isaacs: You had this dispensed? You presented it to someone there behind the medicine counter, and got it dispensed?

Witness: I did.

Dr. M'Inerney: Tell us what you did with it.

Witness: What, with the medicine?

Dr. M'Inerney: Did you get a bottle?

Witness: I did.

Dr. M'Inerney: Have you got it?

Witness: Yes. [Bottle produced.] (To Mr. Isaacs): The medicine produced is a portion of the medicine I got. The label now on the bottle was on it when I got it. After I got this bottle I kept it under lock and key. I paid for the medicine two shillings. I took the bottle of medicine away, and took a portion of the medicine out of it and gave it to Professor Jackson to analyse it. I took it out in his presence and have kept the other portion in my own possession since. I have had other prescriptions dispensed beside that at the same place. I am not a shareholder. I never was. I was not asked.

To Dr. M'Inerney: It was about eleven o'clock in the day when I went to the Equitable Co-operative Society's stores.

To Mr. Isaacs: When I got the prescription, it was returned to me in an envelope. [Envelope put in.] There was a counter there, and a man behind it. There was a tall man there, that gentleman now in Court. [Pointing to Mr. Goold.] He was the gentleman who gave me the prescription. The assistant handed me back the prescription in an envelope. I produce the envelope. This is the doctor's prescription.

Dr. M'Inerney: Do you know what it contains? Could you read it?

Witness: Yes.

Dr. M'Inerney: I expect you told him you were suffering from a very serious complaint. [After examining the prescription and envelope]: I see it purports to be made up and dispensed at this Society by James C. Goold, Pharmaceutical Chemist. Also on the envelope: "By J. C. Goold, Pharmaceutical Chemist."

Mr. Isaacs: If my friend can read, there is something else on it.

Valentine Brown, sworn, said: I am a legally qualified medical practitioner. I have seen the prescription that has been put in evidence. I wrote that. I gave it to the last

witness. It contains sulphite of quinine, liquor of strychnia, sulphuric acid dilute, syrup and water. These are substances and articles which are distinctly dispensed by chemists and druggists. I gave him these drugs because he wanted a tonic. I gave him sulphite of quinine.

Dr. M'Inerney: A lot of big names for nothing.

Witness: What?

Dr. M'Inerney: That will do.

Witness: You earn your money cheaper than I do.

Alfred Henry Jackson, sworn, said: I am director of the College of Pharmacy. I am a pharmaceutical chemist, and an analytical chemist. That is my profession. I have heard the evidence of Mr. Scott, and I have heard him say that he took out a portion of the medicine in the bottle that was produced in my presence. That is so. I analysed that. I found in it sugar, water, sulphite of quinine, and a trace of hydrochloride of strychnine. That would be in accordance with the prescription.

Dr. M'Inerney: And I expect you were satisfied they were all good drugs?

Witness: I did not form any opinion about the goodness.

Mr. Isaacs: That is the case for the prosecution.

Dr. M'Inerney: What summons are you proceeding on first?

Mr. Isaacs: The one that is in.

Dr. M'Inerney: 26th August, for carrying on business?

Mr. Isaacs: Yes.

Dr. M'Inerney: Does your worship think that any case has been made out for me to answer? The summons is that these people did carry on business as pharmaceutical chemist without being registered.

Mr. Isaacs: Carry on business as chemist and druggist.

Dr. M'Inerney: The summons is that they did carry on business as chemist and druggist contrary to the statute. I ask your worships, in this case is there any evidence whatsoever?

The Chairman: Go on.

Dr. M'Inerney: I shall be glad if your worships have any suggestion to make so as to shorten the case.

The Chairman: If you can prove that a certain person, Goold, was registered.

Dr. M'Inerney: That is in evidence.

The Chairman: On that date?

Dr. M'Inerney: Yes. At 89 Collins-street. That was the only question I asked Mr. Shillinglaw—Was J. C. Goold duly registered as a Pharmaceutical Chemist at 89 Collins-street East?

The Chairman: At that address?

Mr. Isaacs: Yes.

Dr. M'Inerney: I ask if there is any case.

Mr. Isaacs: The case is very plain.

The Chairman: I see, you proceed against the Company as the person. In our opinion we think you have not made out the case; that the medicine was duly dispensed by a duly qualified chemist, and that he complied with the Act in every way, and that the public were well protected. Although he chose to dispense at the offices of the Company, we do not think that the Company are to be held responsible. That is our decision. Of course if you are dissatisfied with the decision, carry it to a higher Court.

Mr. Isaacs: Of course, if that is the decision. The other summonses—

Dr. M'Inerney: The other summonses will be withdrawn pending the decision.

The Chairman: Are they all against the Equitable? (To Mr. Isaacs): The other summonses you withdraw for the present?

Dr. M'Inerney: There ought to be some costs.

Mr. Isaacs: I was going to suggest they should be adjourned until after the decision of the Full Court.

Dr. M'Inerney: Let this be dismissed with costs, and we will adopt Mr. Isaacs' suggestion that those be adjourned until the decision be given.

The case was dismissed with £2 2s. costs.

The other cases were entered in the magistrates' book as "withdrawn."

[We understand an appeal against the above decision is now being prosecuted.
Ed. A.J.P.]

AT a recent meeting of chemists and druggists in Cape Town, South Africa, a Poisons Bill introduced into Parliament by Mr. Des Vages, M.L.A., was condemned as incomplete and inapplicable to the requirements of the public and the profession. Mr. Des Vages intimated his willingness to withdraw the bill, and a provisional committee, consisting of Messrs. Bösenberg, Heynes, Mathew, Mocke, Pocock, Reeler, and Yebb, was appointed to arrange preliminaries for the formation of a Pharmaceutical Society.

**THE QUEEN V. THE PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA; EX PARTE
DIMOCK.**

(Specially reported for *The Australasian Journal of Pharmacy*)

THIS was an appeal by the Pharmacy Board to the Full Court from an order made by Chief Justice Stawell that a writ of *mandamus* should issue directed to the Board, commanding them to grant a certificate to George Augustus Dimock, qualifying him for registration as a pharmaceutical chemist, and also ordering that the costs of the application for the *mandamus* be paid by the Board to Dimock.

Mr. Hodges and Mr. Isaacs on behalf of the Board: This appeal arises out of an application made by Dimock to the Board, requiring the Board to grant him a certificate under the Act. The Board refused the application, and an application was made to the court for a *mandamus* directing the Board to issue the certificate. The *mandamus* was granted, with costs, against the Board, and it is against that decision that this appeal is brought. The applicant applied for his certificate under Section 18, sub-section 2, as having been employed as a dispensing assistant in an open shop for the compounding and dispensing of the prescriptions of legally qualified medical practitioners, for not less than three months before the commencement of the Act. There is nothing in the Act to show what a "dispensing assistant" is, but he must be a person who can make up prescriptions as distinguished from a boy in the shop. A mere statement by the applicant that he has been an assistant for three months does not necessitate the Board's granting a certificate. Assuming that the Board find that the applicant had been an assistant for the requisite time, the question arises as to whether the Board has a discretion in the matter.

Judge Higinbotham: The question is whether the Board have power to inquire as to the applicant's qualification.

Mr. Hodges: The language of Section 18 is negative. The Board cannot grant a certificate, unless an affidavit is made that the applicant had been a dispensing assistant for the specified time; but there are no affirmative words imposing the duty on the Board of granting the certificate if this fact is proved. When the Legislature has intended to impose a duty on the Board it has done so in express terms, for by Section 11 the Board is compelled to register all persons to whom they have given the certificate of qualification. The Board have heard and determined the matter, and say they cannot give the certificate, as they cannot conscientiously say that the applicant is duly qualified for registration. The Board say, "You were so young that we do not think you could have been what you say." The Board would have been quite satisfied with the evidence if they thought the applicant had been old enough. It seems an extreme course to say that on an affidavit being filed the Board is bound to issue a certificate.

Judge Higinbotham: If the Board said in distinct terms that they had refused the application because they did not think that the applicant had been employed as dispensing assistant in an open shop for three months, I think it would be very difficult to touch their decision.

Mr. Hodges: The Board are not prepared to deny that the applicant was in the shop, and may have assisted his father in the making-up of prescriptions; but that does not make him a dispensing assistant. The facts to be ascertained are, what he did, and if that makes him a dispensing assistant.

Judge Higinbotham: Does not the evidence of the applicant's father and others go to show that he acted as dispensing chemist?

Mr. Hodges: It may go to show it, but it does not prove it. The Board and not the Court are the persons to decide as to whether the applicant has complied with Section 18, sub-section 2. If the Court can say that the Board must grant a certificate in this case, the Court will have to say that on the affidavit of an applicant and of his employer the Board would have to grant a certificate in every case.

Judge Higinbotham: If the Board were satisfied that a person had been three months as an assistant, would you say that they had a discretion?

Mr. Hodges: Yes; I think so. A *mandamus* is only sent to justices where they have not heard and determined. It is never sent where they have heard and determined, however erroneously.

Judge Webb: Is there any evidence that the Board have heard and determined this matter?

Judge Higinbotham: The word "conscientiously" raises a doubt. The affidavit of Mr. Blackett would seem to show that they considered it lay on them to consider the applicant's fitness for the position, and that they have not considered the matter apart from that.

Mr. Hodges: Where an application has been refused there must have been a determination. This *mandamus* directs the Board to issue a certificate, it therefore assumes that the matter has been determined. Where there is a discretion, it is unheard of to say that the discretion shall be exercised in a particular way. Ordering costs of the *mandamus* against the Board was not justified. The Board occupies a public trust, and unless there is *mala fides* costs should not be awarded against them (*Ex parte Pickup*,

6, A. LT. 29). The Board in granting or withholding a certificate, exercise judicial functions, and if they have made a mistake at all, the mistake is one of law, and not of fact.

Mr. Box and Mr. Smith, on behalf of the applicant : The rule was argued upon the ground that although the applicant had been three months a dispensing assistant he could not be qualified. The question that the Board did not believe the employment has never been raised before. Before the Pharmacy Act was passed any person could act as a chemist. This Act established the Board to protect the public.

Judge Webb : The Board seems to me to say to the applicant—"We do not believe that you were [an assistant, because you were so young that you could not have been.]"

Mr. Box : The Board says—"We quite admit you were employed, but we think it impossible that you should have acquired sufficient knowledge."

After a discussion on the question of costs, Mr. Justice Higinbotham delivered the judgment of the Court as follows:—

There appears to be no doubt that the Pharmacy Board have laboured under a mistake as to their duties in determining on Mr. Dimock's application. The Act was passed to impose a restriction upon the preparation and sale of drugs. Before the Act came into operation a great variety of persons were engaged in different places and under varying circumstances, in earning their livelihood by the compounding and dispensing of drugs; and it was the intention of the Legislature to recognise the fact that persons who might be unqualified under the provisions of the new legislation, but had been engaged in the actual work of compounding and dispensing drugs, should not be deprived of their means of livelihood by the passing of the Act, but that although they were unqualified, they should be registered under the Act, as they had been allowed to work for some time compounding and dispensing drugs. There are several classes of persons who are to be regarded as having acquired certain rights by actual practice of this business before the Act came into operation, viz.:—(1) those who had actually carried on the business of chemist and druggist; (2) those persons who had "at any time before the commencement of the Act been for not less than three months employed as a dispensing assistant in an open shop for the compounding and dispensing of the prescriptions of legally-qualified medical practitioners;" and (3) apprentices to a chemist, &c. The present applicant claims that he is entitled to a certificate that he is duly qualified for registration as a chemist, on the ground that he comes within the second of these classes, as defined by Section 18, sub-section 2, namely:—that before the commencement of the Act he had been for three months employed as a dispensing chemist in an open shop, dispensing the prescriptions of legally-qualified medical practitioners. The Court is not at all prepared to assent to the view put forward on behalf of the Board, that the Board in interpreting the section had an arbitrary and altogether unregulated authority to refuse a certificate to an applicant. These provisions were intended to define the rights of applicants, and as soon as a person brings himself within the statutory terms of the sub-sections it cannot be successfully contended that he has not the legal right to receive the certificate merely on the ground that the language of the Act is negative, and not positive. The distinction drawn by the Legislature between some of the classes to which I have already referred is sufficient to show that persons who had served an apprenticeship for a certain time were to be required to pass a modified examination in subjects prescribed by the Board before they obtained a certificate. No such condition is made in the sub-section as regards dispensing assistants; therefore, any person who succeeds in bringing himself within the terms of the sub-section, and who establishes the fact that he has been engaged for not less than three months as a dispensing assistant in an open shop, would be entitled, on that proof being established, to receive a certificate. Then comes the question, who are the judges of the fact? The Court are of opinion that the Pharmacy Board is to ascertain and determine that fact, and that no other body but the Board can determine it. In this case the Board has made a mistake in supposing that, in addition to determining the fact, it has also the power and the duty to inquire into the qualification of the applicant as regards his fitness. The Board has no such power. All it has to decide is the question of fact whether the applicant has been for three months employed as a dispensing assistant under Section 18, sub-section 2. The Board has nothing to do with the question whether he is fit to carry on the business. The Legislature has otherwise provided, and where the Legislature has made certain provisions, it is not for the Board to raise further conditions outside the Act, and not conferred by the express language of the Act. In this case the Board appears not to have rightly conceived its duty under the sub-section. Speaking for myself, I should be inclined to infer that the Board has been led into the mistake partly by the conduct of the applicant. He made an application in 1879 for a certificate, when he had not complied with the provisions of the Act; he was not of the proper age, and could not have been granted the certificate. He concealed from the Board the fact that he was not then of age, and, when he was afterwards confronted with the fact, the Board then canvassed the question whether he was qualified to carry on the business. They did so when they

instituted inquiries as to the time when he commenced his education as a druggist, and, not being satisfied with the result of their inquiries, they refused a certificate. The application for a certificate was renewed in 1882, and again in January of this year. On both these occasions the Board confined its attention to the question which had first presented itself to it, namely—whether or not the applicant was qualified for the business. It was not their province to inquire into the applicant's qualification. They had only to determine the fact, whether or not, for three months before the commencement of the Act, he had been employed as a dispensing assistant as provided for in Section 18, sub-section 2. This is a question of fact which there is no doubt the Board will honestly and properly determine when they come to consider it; and the order of the Court below will be varied by directing the Board to hear and determine this fact. The Board has practically succeeded in the appeal, and the appeal, therefore, will be allowed with costs. As to the costs of the *mandamus* in the court below, the Board had to exercise *quasi-judicial* functions, and in accordance with the usual and proper practice it will not be required to pay the costs of the *mandamus*.

New South Wales.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

SYDNEY, 14th September.

CONSIDERABLE surprise has been expressed by the members of the Pharmaceutical Society of this colony at a circular issued by two members of the council of the society in reference to the Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference. At a recent meeting of the council it was unanimously resolved that two delegates should be sent to the Conference, and Messrs. Mayne and Melhuish were appointed as the society's representatives. This action met with the undoubted approval of all the leading pharmacists, and great satisfaction was expressed at the probability of all the petty jealousy that has been a reproach to this colony being at an end, and that henceforth the policy was to be one of reciprocity and united action for the benefit of all. This seems to have been the wishes of the council, and there is every reason to hope that such will yet ere long be the case. The circular already mentioned was not issued by the council, but was so worded as to convey to the readers that such was the fact. The first paragraph states that before the council was committed to the Conference, they desired an expression of opinion from the members on certain topics. Now, as the council had committed itself to the Conference, and had no intention of retracting its decision, the remaining five members of the council were naturally very indignant at the wording of the circular, especially as one of the persons whose names appear on the circular as responsible for its publication is one whom they had already chosen to represent them at that gathering. It is greatly regretted by all that any person or persons should have presumed to issue such a circular without the consent of the council of the society. Some of the statements contained in this circular are utterly false, and the insinuations against the promoters of the Conference are quite unworthy of notice. Of one thing the druggists of Australia may be assured, viz., that New South Wales is quite prepared to take its part in this undertaking, and to show a friendly and tolerant spirit towards the pharmacists of other colonies, working amicably for the common good of all parties concerned.

The proceedings and evidence taken before the committee of Parliament on the Pharmaceutical Society Incorporation Act have been printed, and display very little information either to the House or the trade. Only three witnesses were examined, and in the evidence taken there is but a very meagre account of the nature or operations of the society. We are surprised to find that none of the leading druggists were examined, and that even the president was not summoned to give evidence. The sitting of this committee was a good

opportunity of urging in an emphatic and forcible manner the claims of the profession upon the country, and the opportunity having passed, we fear that it may be long ere another may present itself.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* has contained several letters from knowing ones regarding the Incorporation Act, and of the five that have appeared only two bear the names of well-known pharmacists; one from Mr. Bellemey, of Newtown; another from Mr. W. T. Pinhey. The principal grievance complained of seems to be that the society wishes to secure professional rights to its members, and there are those who either deny those rights or dispute that the society is entitled to all that it claims. From a pharmacist's standpoint, the only valid objection to the bill is that it is too indefinite, and leaves all the power in the hands of the council, not granting to the members even the right of making their own rules and bye-laws. The council is to do everything, and the members are to obey the council. What is really required is a measure that will give pharmacists an assured status, and will prevent the indiscriminate sale of poisons and the compounding of the same by unqualified persons. It may be that the time has not yet arrived for a measure of this nature to be introduced, and some little delay may occur in consequence of the financial state of this colony, and the difficulties that hamper the present Government; but most druggists would prefer a brief delay and the prospects of a first-class Act to pottering with the present Act, or introducing an Act that is neither useful nor creditable.

It is rumoured that one of the delegates of the Conference from this colony has intimated his intention of retiring from that position, and rumour is already busy as to his probable successor. It has been suggested that the president is the proper person to send, but, as this was suggested and declined by the president at the first election of delegates, it is improbable that he will reconsider his determination and accept the position. The other gentleman suggested is Mr. J. S. Abraham, who would ably fill the position, and whose genial disposition and professional ability and energy mark him as one peculiarly fitted for the position of representative of the colony in this important movement.

The correspondence in the *Herald* on the Incorporation Bill, referred to above, is too lengthy for re-publication in your pages; but the following reply made by Mr. Pinhey will give a general idea of the nature of the arguments urged against the measure:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HERALD."

SIR,—With reference to the letter appearing in your issue of Wednesday last signed "An Observant Observer," I may state that I only notice the matter, since the letter is an anonymous one, in order to correct certain misstatements contained therein. The writer of the letter in question states that the Act of Incorporation for the above-named society "introduces a new and most dangerous feature in colonial legislation." That it is neither new nor dangerous is shown by the fact that the Royal Society and the Linnean Society of this colony have had similar Acts for some time past. However, in reply to the statement that this class of legislation "has been found in England and throughout Europe to be incompatible with individual right," I may state that almost every society of any standing is incorporated; the pharmaceutical societies of Great Britain, Ireland, Canada, and those of every European country included. With reference to the bill being promoted by "a small—a very small number of pharmacists," all I need say is that the matter was agreed upon at a general meeting of the society held three years ago, and that the society numbers upwards of 250. The statement that the promoters of this Act "seek to regulate the admission of members into their vocation" is incorrect, since the bill will simply regulate the admission of members into a private society and not a vocation. The references to the University and Board of Technical Education are beside the question, since neither will be directly or indirectly affected. "An Observant Observer" states that the Act will deprive those who have studied in the department of pharmacy at the Technical College of the right to practise

their art, thus leading the public to infer that the certificate of the Technical College is a qualification. Such is not the case, the Crown law officers having decided some time ago that no such power is vested in the Board of Technical Education; and, moreover, that it would be inadvisable to confer such power on that body, the Board of Pharmacy being constituted the only qualifying body by Act of Parliament. No board of technical education, either in England or elsewhere, has the power to grant certificates or diplomas which entitle their holders to carry on the business of chemists and druggists. In conclusion, I may state that the Act of Incorporation sought for will simply regulate the admission of members into a private society, regulate the proceedings of the said society, and confer upon its members the title of pharmaceutical chemist. Certain insinuations regarding myself I decline to notice further.—I am, &c.,

W. T. PINHEY,

Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society.

In a very sensible letter, subsequently published, Mr. R. T. Bellemey, pharmacist, Newtown, suggests that the principal fear actuating the writers of these attacks is that "any law should be passed which would protect the public from the imposition of uneducated, and, in many cases, unscrupulous and ignorant, impostors." Having said which, however, Mr. Bellemey proceeds to argue that the State or Government is the proper body to lay down and enforce the principles and qualifications which such people (that is, chemists) should possess; that the proper and only way to do this is by a law which in other colonies is called a Pharmacy Act, dealing with the qualifications of pharmacists and the sale and use of medicines and poisons; and that in trying to accomplish this object by means of an Incorporation Bill the Pharmaceutical Society is "making a huge mistake, and a leap backward." Whatever your opinion may be on this subject, you will, no doubt, heartily agree with Mr. Bellemey in the wish with which he concludes his letter, viz., that "the Government will be induced very shortly to introduce an Act similar to that which is conferring such benefits elsewhere." Before passing from the subject, I may mention that at a recent meeting of the Technical Board, attention having been called to "certain clauses of the bill affecting the certificates granted to students attending the pharmacy classes at the Technical College," it was resolved—"That objection be taken to the passage of the bill in its present form."

In the Assembly, on 27th August, the Medical Practitioners' Bill was further considered in committee, and several clauses were passed. Sir Henry Parkes announced that he would resist the measure in every way he could unless Dr. Tarrant would consent to some liberal provision being made to save from ruin a large number of unregistered practitioners who had for years past been practising with acceptability to many people, especially in the country districts. Dr. Tarrant, however, refused to make any alterations in the principles of the measure, which he desired to be treated on its merits, and dealt with in this way only.

At the monthly meeting of the Linnean Society of New South Wales, on 25th August, among the papers read was one by Dr. Woolls, Ph.D., F.L.S., entitled a "Note on *Eucalyptus Leucoxylon* (F. v. M.)" In the *Flora Australiensis*, vol. 3, two eucalypti previously regarded as distinct species (*E. leucoxylon*, F. v. M., and *E. sidevoxylon*, A. Cunn.) were united under the former name. Dr. Woolls has long thought that this step was a mistake, and in his paper he gave reasons, based upon the examinations of specimens of both forms, in favour of their specific distinctness, and of the restoration of Cunningham's name to the red flowering ironbark of New South Wales, the other name being restricted to the white gum of Victoria and South Australia.

Mr. Frederick Wright gave a lecture at the Technical College Hall, Pitt-street, on Friday, 13th August, on "Mercurial Poisoning," to a large and appreciative audience.

Mr. Edwin Quayle still continues giving his weekly lectures at the Pharmaceutical Society's rooms on "Practical Dispensing." The lectures are very instructive, and are illustrated by numerous useful experiments. There are still large attendances of students and others, all of whom manifest the greatest interest in the remarks of the lecturer. After the lectures, the usual practical classes for students are held. The number of students connected with the society is becoming so large that it will probably be considered necessary shortly to hold these lectures more frequently than once a week, as at present.

The inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Mrs. E. B. Kent, at Redfern, from narcotic poisoning, ended in a verdict of wilful murder, and the committal for trial of Thomas Kent and Caroline Roberts. At the Central Criminal Court, on 2nd September, both prisoners were acquitted.

At the Criminal Court, on 30th August, Alfred Reynolds, who had on the previous day pleaded guilty to the charge of murdering his wife, on 12th August, by compelling her to swallow a dose of opium, was sentenced to death after evidence had been taken as to his sanity.

Ten thousand one hundred and seventy-six tins of Swiss condensed milk, brought by the *Austral* on her last voyage, have been condemned as unfit for human consumption, and will be destroyed by fire.

At Temora, John Newton, a night watchman, has committed suicide by drinking sulphuric acid.

The death is announced, at the ripe age of seventy-eight, of Mr. James Larmer, brother of Mr. W. Larmer, president of the Pharmaceutical Society. The deceased gentleman, who is said to have been the first white man to set foot on the Darling Downs, settled at Braidwood over forty years ago, and remained there till his death.

I have also to record the death of Mr. E. J. Garraway, junior assistant at the pharmacy of Mr. W. Hume. This young gentleman came to the colony for the benefit of his health, but the confinement of a druggist's life proved too much for him, and he expired suddenly in consequence of the rupture of a blood-vessel. His decease is greatly regretted by those who knew his patient and persevering disposition.

Business, which during the past three months has been very quiet, now shows signs of improvement, the general rains and the advance in the price of wool having had a very beneficial effect.

One of the large plate-glass windows in Mr. Norden's shop, at the corner of Margaret and George streets, was recently maliciously broken by some unknown person throwing a stone through it. Fortunately it was insured.

Mr. F. M. Clements has gone into business at Lackey-street, Summer Hill.

INSOLVENCY.—Thomas W. Mulholland, of Kogarah, druggist's assistant. Liabilities, £249 7s. 4d.; assets, £10. Mr. Stephen, official assignee.

A meeting of the Chemists' and Druggists' Trade Association of New South Wales was held at the Pharmaceutical Society's rooms on Thursday, 2nd September.

A letter was received from Mr. A. J. Watt resigning his position as president. Mr. Watt's resignation was accepted with regret.

It was proposed by Mr. Melhuish, and seconded by Mr. Wells—"That Mr. Abraham be elected president." The motion was carried.

Mr. Wells then moved, and Mr. Kebblewhite seconded—"That Mr. Melhuish be appointed treasurer, consequent on Mr. Abraham having been appointed president." The motion was carried.

A discussion then took place as to the best method of promoting the interests of the chemists of New South Wales, and a committee was afterwards formed to deal with the matter. This and financial business brought the meeting to a close.

REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS OF THE PHARMACY BOARD OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

Apropos of the above, contradictory versions of which appeared in the last issues of the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy* and the *Chemist and Druggist*, the following letters have been handed to us for publication:—

Pharmacy Board, Melbourne, 6th September, 1886.

DEAR SIR,—Will you be good enough to inform me if the report appearing in the *Chemist and Druggist of Australasia* of my interview with the Pharmacy Board of New South Wales on the 3rd of August last is an official report furnished to that journal, with the sanction and approval of the Board, as a correct statement of what took place at the meeting.

I shall also be glad if you will state in your reply if I did not call upon you at once on receipt of a copy of the resolution passed at the above meeting, and point out to yourself and Mr. Bozon its inaccuracy.—I am, yours truly,

HARRY SHILLINGLAW, Registrar.

W. T. Pinhey, Esq., Secretary Pharmacy Board of New South Wales, Sydney.

Pharmacy Board of Victoria, Melbourne, September, 1886.

To Messrs. Abraham, Larmer, Melhuish, M'Carthy, and Sadler, of Sydney.

DEAR SIRS,—May I ask you kindly to state at the foot of this note if the attached report, which appeared in the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy* for August last, is a correct record of what took place at the meeting held on the 3rd ult.—Yours faithfully,

Yes.—WILLIAM LARMER.

Yes.—HENRY SADLER.

Yes.—T. B. MELHUISH.

Yes.—WILLIAM H. M'CARTHY.

Yes.—JOHN S. ABRAHAM.

HARRY SHILLINGLAW, Registrar.

Board of Pharmacy, 142 Phillip-street, Sydney, 11th September, 1886.

MY DEAR SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 6th inst. asking whether the report appearing in the *Chemist and Druggist of Australasia* of your interview with the Pharmacy Board of this colony is an official one, and furnished with the sanction and approval of the Board, I beg to inform you that I am not in the habit of furnishing reports, official or otherwise, to the *Chemist and Druggist of Australasia* or any similar publication.

As regards your second query, as to whether you called upon me on receipt of a copy of a resolution passed at the meeting on 3rd August last past, and then pointed out to Mr. Bozon and myself the inaccuracy of the resolution, I have to state that you did so call and point out what you term its inaccuracy, and I then showed to you the original resolution,* signed by the chairman, which agrees with the report published in the journal referred to.—With kind regards, I am, yours very truly,

W. T. PINHEY.

H. W. Shillinglaw, Esq.

[* What Mr. Pinhey terms "the original resolution" was a minute written by himself, and was not signed by the chairman during the meeting.—ED. A.J.P.]

It is announced that a new variety of filter paper is being made in the United States, which exercises an antiseptic influence upon liquids passing through it. This is said to be effected by the addition of from 5 to 20 per cent. of animal charcoal to the paper pulp.

At a meeting of the *Société Médicale d'Amiens*, M. Lessenne indicated a certain sign of death, simple and trustworthy. After pricking the skin with a needle, the puncture remains open, just as when a piece of leather is pricked. On the living body, even if the blood does not come to the surface (as would happen if the person was hysterical), the pin-prick closes at once, and does not leave the slightest trace.

South Australia.

THE monthly meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia was held on the 26th August, when several applications for membership were considered, and it was resolved to recommend the members of the society to appoint a furnishing committee in order that proper provision, in the way of glass cases, cupboards, drawers, etc., might be made for specimens of *materia medica*, and for the library of the society. The president stated that it was desirable to raise a fund for this purpose outside the ordinary resources of the society, and mentioned that Messrs. Hartley, Provost, Sowter, Poole, and L. Scammell had intimated their willingness to act as a furnishing committee if appointed, and had also promised subscriptions themselves.

The usual monthly general meeting of members took place in the society's room, King William-street, on Tuesday, 7th September.

Several gentlemen, who had been nominated for membership previous to 1st September, were then elected, the council having ascertained that their qualifications were satisfactory.

An application from Mr. Cummins, expressing his desire to become an associate, or member, as the rules might allow, was discussed, but owing to his not having fulfilled the required conditions as to length of experience, the meeting decided that he was not eligible, and the hon. secretary, Mr. Main, was requested to refer him to the minor examination as a means of entrance to the society.

In reference to the Conference to be held in Victoria, a letter from Mr. Fryar was read, which had been received in reply to the request that he would act as the representative of this society at the Conference.

Mr. Fryar stated that he would be obliged to decline, owing to his being engaged in business at some distance from Melbourne.

Messrs. G. A. Parker, O'Connor, White, and others expressed their desire that delegates should be appointed, and the president remarked that the hon. secretary had suggested Mr. J. N. Birks, of Port Adelaide, and Mr. C. Cross, of Gawler, as gentlemen likely to undertake the duty, and it was resolved that they should be requested to do so.

The matter of the furnishing committee was then brought before the meeting, and the president having pointed out that the specimens at present in the possession of the society were spoiling for want of proper accommodation, it was unanimously decided to adopt the recommendation of the council. Accordingly, Mr. Cooper moved, and Mr. O'Connor seconded—"That Messrs. Hartley, Provost, Poole, Sowter, and L. Scammell be appointed as furnishing committee, to obtain subscriptions and carry out the work of furnishing the society's office." Carried.

Mr. Young inquired whether anything had been done to obtain a Pharmacy Act, which he thought would be a most desirable thing.

The president replied that the council had endeavoured to obtain representation of pharmaceutical interests in the House of Assembly by interviewing one of the candidates for East Adelaide at the last election. This gentleman had expressed his willingness to advance the interests of chemists, but, unfortunately, he failed to gain the seat.

Mr. White said that he thought nothing more could be done in the matter until the report of the committee appointed to inquire into the working of the various Acts in other countries had been received.

Mr. Cooper asked if anything had been done in the way of arranging classes for students. The president said that if a sufficient number to form a class could be obtained he would like to see such established. At present there were classes at the University which would greatly help students, only these were held in the morning, which would be somewhat inconvenient. Mr. Young said that there were evening classes also. The meeting then terminated.

Some changes in business have occurred lately. Mr. Dossett has purchased the business opposite his premises lately carried on by Barton and Dumas. Mr. Le Couteur has opened at Hindmarsh. The business of Mr. Dixon, Parkside, has changed hands, Mr. Clayton, late of New Zealand, being the purchaser. Mr. Lower, late of Barton and Dumas, has also commenced at Hindmarsh, having taken over the business of the late Mr. Wyatt.

Business in olive oil is likely to look up, for we hear that Messrs. Collis and Son, of Gawler-place, some few months ago had inquiries from one of the largest druggists' houses in the United States for samples of South Australian olive oil, and by the last Californian mail they received an order for a large quantity in bulk. The oil manufactured by Sir Samuel Davenport has been selected, and will be shipped to America at once. It is to be hoped that the display of colonial resources, which will no doubt form a considerable feature in the Jubilee Exhibition of South Australia, will help on the good work of developing trade with other countries in colonial products, so worthily begun at the Exhibitions held in the other Australian colonies, and notably assisted by the Indian and Colonial Exhibition now in progress in Great Britain.

Some time ago the Faculty of Medicine at the Adelaide University began strenuous exertions, which they have continued since, to extend the period of the curriculum of the Medical School from the present term of two years to five years, so that the students should be able to complete the course. By doing this the attractiveness of the school for those proposing to study medicine would be greatly enhanced, and the gain to the University and colony would be very great. At the last meeting of the council of the University it was determined to carry out the proposal. Amongst other things which induced the authorities to arrive at this decision were letters from the Minister of Education, expressing agreement with the council's proposal that, after the award of the next South Australian Scholarship, the funds appropriated for that scholarship shall be devoted to the purposes of the Medical School; and from Sir Thomas Elder, offering to pay £500 in 1887 and a similar amount in 1888 towards the additional expenditure which will be involved. Arrangements are now being made by the Faculty of Medicine to also consider a proposition to admit ladies as medical students.

At a recent meeting of the Central Board of Health, the president said that, in consequence of the presence of diphtheria in several parts of the colony, he had drawn up plain instructions, which were now in the hands of the Government printer, similar to those already sent out in reference to typhoid fever and scarlatina. It was a growing conviction that the chief cause, if not the only one, of the spread of diphtheria is direct contagion, and isolation appears to be the best preventive. He hoped in a few days to be able to send the printed instructions to the places where the disease was known to exist.

Mr. Crawford, an authority on insect pests, is of opinion that the insect found on the pittosporums at the Melbourne Custom House is the *Icerya Purchasi*, or Australian bug, and not the *Dorthesia*. It is found on exotic trees here, but does not do much harm.

Tasmania.

PARLIAMENT was opened on 24th August. Among other "bills dealing with subjects of practical importance and utility" announced as having been prepared, is a bill to regulate the sale and use of poisons.

Mr. Geo. Davis has been appointed assistant dispenser at the United Friendly Societies' Dispensary, Launceston.

Mr. Howard S. J. Drew, of Messrs. Hatton and Laws' dispensary at Westbury, has been granted a dispenser's license.

A homeopathist (Dr. M. Wilkins Gutteridge, M.B., C.N., and M.R.C.S.) recently arrived in Launceston from Bradford, England, and will at once commence business.

Mr. Alfred Wright, the proprietor of a chemical manure factory at Glenorchy, has been fined 40s. and costs, at the instance of the Local Board of Health, for permitting a nuisance to exist. The bench announced that should there be subsequent convictions, each time the amount will be doubled until it reaches £200. Mr. Wright said he would appeal to the Supreme Court.

Since last communication to you, a few changes have taken place here. Mr. Perry, dispenser to the Hobart Friendly Societies has resigned, and Mr. J. J. Ryan has been appointed in his place. At the Launceston Friendly Societies' Dispensary, also, Mr. Johnson having resigned, Mr. C. N. Rawson has been appointed dispenser.

Mr. Spong has sold his business in Brisbane-street, Launceston, to Mr. Cox, who was with Messrs. Hatton and Laws for some years.

The following persons have been registered by the Board of Medical Examiners as qualified chemists in Tasmania:—Messrs. John M. Reynolds, Howard Drew, and Charles Kinch.

Mr. J. T. Weaver has resigned his position as hon. secretary to the Hobart Chemists' Association, and Mr. R. E. Ash has been appointed his successor.

The Government has introduced into Parliament a bill to regulate the sale and use of poisons. It is almost a verbatim copy of the Victorian Poisons Act, but has an extra clause, as follows:—"It shall not be lawful to buy or to sell any poison for the avowed purpose of destroying rats or other vermin infesting houses unless the purchaser be a householder." The reading of the bill has been postponed, to allow us to consider the various clauses, some of which will probably require alteration.

In reference to the approaching Pharmaceutical Conference to be held in Melbourne in October next, Mr. A. P. Miller—whom we are daily expecting to return from his trip to the old country—has been appointed to represent Hobart; and as our northern friends will also be represented, let us hope that their deliberations will secure for us a better footing with the various Pharmaceutical Societies of the colonies.

New Zealand.

At the New Zealand Drug Company's warehouse, Dunedin, on the 8th August, a handsome illuminated address was presented to Mr. John Sellgren (who has been connected with the firm for the past ten years) on the occasion of his leaving for Wellington. Mr. J. English on behalf of the employés, expressed the regret they felt at his departure, and Mr. Kampthorne having referred in high terms to Mr. Sellgren's ability, and congratulated him on having secured one of the most flourishing retail businesses in the colony, those present drank Mr. Sellgren's health and wished him every success in his new venture. A

silver cruet and a combination stand, subscribed for by the *employés* and friends, was also presented to Mrs. Sellgren. Mr. Sellgren, who is a pharmaceutical chemist of Sweden, was for several years dispenser in the Melbourne Hospital.

Mr. Jeffcoat, formerly a student at the Otago University, has passed his final medical professional examination with distinction at the Edinburgh University.

At a meeting of the Auckland Institute on 23rd August, Mr. Baber read a paper on "The Medicinal Plants of New Zealand." The subjects treated were poisons, astringents, stimulants, and tonics, as follows:—Poisons: Tupakihī or tutu—*Coriaia ruscifolia*; wharangi or pukapuka—*Brachyglottis reparda*; karaka—*Corynocarpus lavigata*; waoriki—a poisonous grass. Anodynes—none. Cathartic—*Phormium tenax*. Demulcent—Kariao or supplejack—*Ripogonium secundus*. Astringents: Koromiko—*Veronica salicifolia*; rata—*Metrosideros robustus*; pohutukawa—*Metrosideros tomentosa*; rimu—*Dacrydium cupressinum*; manuka and tree fern gum. Stimulants: Kawakawa—*Piper excelsus*. Tonic: Kohekohe (native cedar)—*Dysoxylum spectabile*.

At Timaru on 16th August, Thomas Hall, a well-known commission agent, and nephew of Sir John Hall, and a young woman named Margaret Graham Houston were arrested on a charge of attempting to murder Hall's wife (Catherine Hall) by the administration of antimony. The warrant for their arrest was issued on the information of Dr. M'Intyre, who was attending Mrs. Hall professionally, and who discovered traces of poison in her food and drink. On the police searching the house, several phials containing antimony were found, and the male prisoner had a phial in his possession with a few drops of poison in it. Great intimacy appears to have existed between the prisoners, and Mrs. Hall's life was insured for £6000. Several charges of fraud and forgery have since been brought against Hall by his partner.

At Invercargill recently, an old settler named Martin was committed for trial for giving phosphorised oats to his son-in-law's horses, two of which were found dead.

At Southbridge on 5th August a Chinaman named Ah Sow committed suicide by taking an overdose of opium. His fellow-countrymen, finding him dying, laid him outside in the cold, as "they did not like dead people in the house."

A lady in Christchurch is reported to be in the habit of drinking, on an average, nine or ten fluid ounces of laudanum per week. She is said to have made many attempts to abandon the habit, but in vain.

Queensland.

A COMMITTEE meeting of the Chemists' Association was held a fortnight ago with the object of arranging a uniform price for retailing patent medicines, but, after a long discussion and several suggestions being made, it was adjourned without anything definite being settled.

The Opium Bill, the principal object of which is to prohibit the sale of opium to the aborigines, was read a second time in the Assembly on 10th August. The general principles of the bill have met with general approval, but, during the discussion, one matter was commented on which will very likely receive further attention in committee. This is the fact that, under the interpretation clause, opium is defined as including opium, laudanum, or any preparation of either, and so, if the stringent provisions of the bill are carried out, persons in the country districts might be hampered in the use of laudanum, which is largely used as a medicine both for man and beast, or even in the use of patent medicines containing either. The section of most interest to pharmacists reads as follows:—"Every person who supplies, or permits to be supplied, any opium to any aboriginal native of Australia, or half-caste of that race, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding fifty pounds, and not less than twenty pounds, or to be imprisoned with or without hard labour for any period not exceeding six months, and not less than one month; and if he is a pharmaceutical chemist, his name may be removed by the

Pharmacy Board of Queensland from the Pharmaceutical Register of Queensland, and if he is the holder of a license under this Act, the license shall be cancelled, and he shall be disqualified from holding a license under this Act for five years from the date of the conviction."

Mr. A. Mead, lately of Rockhampton, has returned after a long illness of some months in Wooloongong, N.S.W. He has purchased the business lately managed by Mr. J. Power, of Warwick, and it should turn out a good "spec."

Very few chemists were down from the country to the Exhibition held this month. Of late years I have noticed several exhibits from chemists who used to compete in the manufacture of perfumery and other lines, but this year there was not a single exhibit.

Mr. Cardell, of Roma, who has been enjoying himself in the southern colonies during the last two months, has returned, looking very much the better of his trip. He is leaving for home this week. Mr. Beichman, lately of Melbourne, has been managing the business during his absence.

I hear that Mr. W. Lale, of Bowen, who at the beginning of the year started for England, is about to return, after having a "good time" of it. Mr. Lale will, I believe, be entitled to claim that he was the sole representative of Queensland pharmacy at the Exhibition.

Mr. Corsan, lately assistant with Mr. Cormack, has gone to Townsville to assist in Messrs. Atkinson and Powell's new shop. By-the-way, I am told that this shop is one of the best of its kind in the colony.

Mr. Thomas, who left Sydney a short time ago for the Croydon goldfields, has returned, evidently thinking the place not good enough. I hear that Mr. Wragge is about building a shop on the field. He thinks something will come of it shortly.

Mr. Comley, of Normanton, is about leaving. I do not know who his successor is.

I notice by the papers that Mr. Hurworth, of Winton, has assigned his estate. His business is being managed by Mr. Harris.

It is reported that Mr. Power, lately of Warwick, is about opening a shop in New Farm Valley, but this is not authenticated.

I would warn assistants in the southern colonies against leaving situations, and coming to this colony with the hope of securing employment. There are now several assistants about town who would be glad to take even a junior's position. The fact is that business during the last year has been so bad, owing to drought and other causes, that the proprietors are now doing without assistants. As mentioned in my last letter, however, after the late rains, there is every prospect of good business being done at no distant date. I have heard privately that several assistants are on the way out from England.

Notes and Abstracts.

TOXICITY OF EFFETE MATTER.—In an article dealing with this subject the *British and Colonial Druggist* of 10th July writes:—"Quite recently M. Bouchard has endeavoured to ascertain what variations normally occur in the toxic power of urine in healthy subjects at different periods of the day. The 24 hours being divided into three equal periods, of which the first is devoted to sleep, the relative toxicity of the urine in these periods was found to be in the proportion of 3, 7, and 5 respectively, irrespective of the influence of food. If meals identical in substance and quantity be taken at the beginning of each of these periods then the urotoxic power was represented by the figures 3, 7.5, and 5.5. Normal feeding, therefore, causes no remarkable differences to show themselves, but, as might be expected, a notable result accrues under the reverse conditions. Fasting at once induces an increment in toxicity in sleep-urine of no less than 50 per cent.—*i.e.*, the normal 3 becomes 4.5. Hence the urine of a man forced to live by the oxidation of his own animal substance is far more poisonous than if he be properly fed."

CHEMICAL ANTISEPTICS.—We extract the following from a paper recently read by R. G. Eides, M.D., of Brooklyn, before the New York State Pharmacy Association:—"If a choice must be made between chemical antiseptics, there is no reason why we should confine ourselves exclusively to either salicylic or boric acid. These two acids are now "all the rage," and whoever advocates anything else is considered cranky. Benzoic acid, hydro-naphthole, mercuric chloride, and other non-irritating substances have been

successfully used in surgical practice, and are available in pharmacy as well. As between salicylic and boric acids, the latter is now considered the best in collyria. It is much more soothing, notwithstanding the fact that it requires nearly 40 times the amount to do the same work. All who have tried the two upon their conjunctivas never hesitate in giving the preference to boric acid. Dr. Squibb now prefers it to everything else, and thinks that a better article for the purpose is unnecessary. Certainly its almost negative medical qualities would seem to commend it here. It is soothing to inflamed tissues, and is not likely to be physiologically contra-indicated in many cases. The writer's choice, however, after a trial of many kinds, is benzoic acid. Applied to the eyes in solutions of more than double the strength necessary to protect, it does not produce the least irritation. One grain has about the same antiseptic power as a dram of boric acid. In fruit juices the flavour is not in the least impaired by it, and in alkaloidal solutions no nauseous taste is super-imposed on that of the active ingredient. Like all others it is sometimes contra-indicated, but less frequently than salicylic acid, and no oftener than boric. It is excreted as hippuric acid, a normal constituent of urine, thus indicating that it adds force to the body, and not like salicylic acid, stealing force away by being excreted as salicyluric acid—a combination of itself and glycol.

KAVA AS A LOCAL ANÆSTHETIC.—Lewin (*Deutsche Medizinal-Zeitung*, 1st February, 1886) reports the results of additional personal experiments with this new narcotic, the anæsthetic properties of which are singularly like those of cocaine. He found that six or seven minims of a solution of kava, injected beneath the skin, produced complete loss of sensibility in the surrounding area, which did not pass off for five days. The anæsthesia was so extreme that even strong induced currents failed to produce more than a slight prickling sensation. When a small quantity of the resin was placed on the tip of the tongue the bitterest drug could not be tasted.—*N.Y. Med. Jour.*, 8th May, 1886.

ECZEMA, according to Dr. Wyss (*Nouv. Rév.*, 15th July), may be effectually relieved by application of resorcin. Being himself a sufferer from eczema in the hands, he employed a vaselin ointment containing 10 per cent. of resorcin to allay the intolerable itching consequent upon the vesicular eruption and the infiltration of the skin. The effect was surprising, the itching and the infiltration disappearing rapidly. The period most favourable for application is when the eruption is oozing, and when desiccation has commenced.

BORACINE.—Dr. Thornton Parker states that the compound to which this name has been given consists of boric acid, glycerine, menthol salicylate, menthol, thymol, and eucalyptol. Used in solution, it is a satisfactory dressing for wounds; as a thick paste it is well adapted for the treatment of chronic ulcers of the legs. In the form of suppositories made with glycerine, and containing 25 per cent. of boracine, it forms a convenient method of treating threadworms or chronic leucorrhœa, while an ointment of it has given excellent results in the treatment of chronic eczema of the scalp.—*J.A.M. Assoc.*, 1st May, 1886.

SMALL-POX IN SWITZERLAND.—In May, 1883, the people of Zürich repealed the cantonal law of compulsory vaccination. The result of this decision may be seen from the official returns. According to these the deaths from small-pox in the canton of Zürich, which in the year 1881 were seven, and in 1882 and 1883 nil, rose in 1884 to 11, in 1885 they were 73, and in the first three months of this year no fewer than 85. In fact, small-pox has become epidemic in the canton, and will, no doubt, more or less involve neighbouring cantons before it can be stamped out. The rejected law will be re-enacted, but before this can be done more deaths will have occurred. Further proof of the efficacy of

compulsory vaccination may be found in a comparison of the systems adopted respectively in Germany and France. In 1885 the deaths from small-pox in 21 German towns, having an aggregate population of 4,306,933, amounted to 27, while in 15 French towns where vaccination is not obligatory, and whose aggregate population is 4,200,840, the deaths from the same cause in the same period reached a total of 866, 32 times more than in the larger German population. These facts, and others equally significant, will be found fully set forth in a work by the distinguished statistician, Doctor Jassens, recently published at Brussels.—*B. and C. Drug.*

Notes on British Society Meetings.

AT a meeting of the council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain on 7th July, a discussion arose on the costs of prosecutions under the Pharmacy Act, during which the president admitted that for every £5 recovered the society were actually £10 out of pocket—in other words, that it cost £15 to recover £5. One case was mentioned where it cost £45 to recover £3.

AT the same meeting the House committee reported that, having carefully considered the desirability of extending the usefulness of the society's official organ, they had come to the conclusion that it was not expedient to increase the size or to make any alteration in the character of the *Journal*. The report was adversely criticised by several members, but was eventually adopted.

THE report presented at the sixth annual meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry, held at Liverpool in July, showed that the society now contains 2271 members. Since the previous meeting 266 members had been elected, and 86 had been lost by death. The council expressed a hope that the existing depression among the chemical industries may soon pass away, and that the work which the society has been formed to achieve may bear fruit in the shape of increased prosperity to existing industries, and the establishment of new manufactures.

AT a recent meeting of the Board of Examiners for Scotland a resolution was adopted expressing "the great satisfaction with which they have learned that it has pleased her Majesty to confer the honour of Knighthood on Sir Douglas Maclagan," a dignity which they regarded as "a singularly fitting and appropriate recognition of the varied abilities and attainments by which Sir Douglas has, throughout a long and brilliant career, shed fresh lustre on his profession, and enhanced the name and the fame of the Edinburgh School of Medicine."

AT a meeting of the council of the Pharmaceutical Society in July, the president read a letter which had been received from Mr. Bosisto, acknowledging the resolution passed in June, and expressing the hope that friendly relations would always subsist between the home society and the daughter society in Victoria. At the same meeting a letter was read from the president and registrar of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, introducing Mr. Bowen, president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia. The president mentioned that Mr. Bowen had arrived before the receipt of the letter, and that he had the honour of welcoming him to London.

AMONG the donations acknowledged by the librarian at a recent meeting of the council of the Pharmaceutical Society we note the following:—"Müeller (Baron F. Von), 'Select Extra-tropical Plants,' new Victorian edition, 1885. From J. Bosisto, Esq., M.P., on behalf of the Victorian Royal Commission." At the same meeting an application from the Pharmacy Board of Queensland for the *Pharmaceutical Journal* and a copy of the Register was directed to be complied with.

A CURIOUS case came before the council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland on 7th July. A Mr. Lennan, who had been duly admitted a pharmaceutical chemist in August, 1885, wrote stating that on the occasion of a fire which occurred on his premises on 11th May last his certificate had been very much injured and defaced, and requesting the council to forward him a new certificate. It was found impossible to comply with the request, as a new certificate would not be valid without the signatures of the examiners who examined the applicant, and they were now out of office; and the registrar was accordingly instructed to send Mr. Lennan a letter, stating that he had passed the final examination, and was a duly registered pharmaceutical chemist.

Notes from Foreign Journals.

AN American contemporary states that a bill now before the Ohio (U.S.A.) Legislature proposes to restrict the sale, not only of simple poisons, but also of patent and proprietary medicines containing poisons, to registered pharmacists.

"PARACELSUS," in the *British and Colonial Druggist*, writes:—"M. Kunckel tells the French Academy that the foetid secretion of the house-bug resides in the sternal thoracic glands of the developed, and the dorsal abdominal glands of the immature insect. I do not know who—in the absence of the Teutonic race—would undertake such unsavoury science, so we must be duly grateful."

A CORRESPONDENT of the London *Daily Telegraph* is responsible for transmitting a story to the effect that the medical officer of Tiree, the inhabitants of which island are just now in antagonism to the authorities on the Crofter Question, has received from an enterprising druggist a circular, in which he says "In case of civil war in Tiree, I beg respectfully to solicit your esteemed order for lint, bandages, &c."

THE *Pharmaceutical Journal* has a note dealing with the subject of "cream ices," from which we extract the following:—The *Lancet* mentions that within a fortnight twenty to thirty persons have been treated at St. Thomas' Hospital, all of whom had eaten ices obtained from one particular shop. Most of them were suffering from signs of irritant poisoning, and our contemporary considers it probable that these were due to carbolic acid employed as a preservative of the materials used in making the ices. But it seems remarkable, to say the least, that sufficient carbolic acid should be ingested to cause illness, or even death, without giving more evidence of its presence than has yet been recognised. The *British Medical Journal* considers it most probable that the materials had undergone some peculiar decomposition, leading to the formation of a poison of the nature of a ptomaine, before they were submitted to the freezing process. A similar theory found favour in the Vienna and Brooklyn cases, and it finds confirmation in an announcement just to hand that such a poisonous substance has been separated by Professor V. C. Vaughan from a sample of noxious ice cream. This compound is said to be due to the action of a "germ" that occurs occasionally in milk, and to be identical with the poisonous compound named "tyrot-xicon," which the same chemist separated from cheese of a brand that had caused considerable illness in Michigan.

FROM the *Pharmaceutical Journal* we learn that the Municipal Council of Paris has recently adopted a series of regulations for the organisation of a pharmaceutical night service in the city. At present the arrangement would appear to be a voluntary one on the part of the pharmacists taking part in it, a list of whom will be kept at the neighbouring police offices. A person desiring in the night to obtain medicine on the prescription of a medical man will

have to apply at a police office. If the patient requires public relief, the messenger is to be taken by a police officer to the *maison de secours*, and if the medicine be not available there, then to one of the pharmacists on the list. If the patient is able to pay, the messenger is to be taken direct to the pharmacist, who is to be entitled to charge, in addition to the ordinary price of the medicine, another franc and a half, to compensate him for the trouble of getting up in the night.

A CASE is reported in the *Lancet* in which death followed in two hours and a quarter after swallowing by a man of not more than half an ounce of bisulphide of carbon. Emetics were given about a quarter of an hour after the poison was taken, and the stomach pump was used, but without avail; the man became unconscious, and, notwithstanding the administration of brandy, never rallied, the symptoms being those of narcotic poisoning.

A CASE of poisoning by chloroform, in which recovery followed the use of the stomach pump and subcutaneous injection of atropine sulphate, is reported in the *Lancet* of 3rd July. The patient stated that after swallowing two ounces of undiluted chloroform he walked a distance of two hundred yards to his home.

ACCORDING to the *Pharmaceutical Record* (New York), the forty-five million population of the United States have 80 regular medical colleges, with about 10,000 medical students; eight of these medical colleges have each from 300 to 600 students, and seven have from 200 to 300.

Formulae : Original and Selected.

STIMULANT POMADE—DYE FOR THE HAIR.

THROUGH the courtesy of a Parisian subscriber we are enabled to publish for the first time the formula of a preparation, which unites within itself the properties of an efficient hair-dye and a hair restorer, which has lately been introduced in the practice of well-known specialists with great success. It should, when put up, be very carefully excluded from the action of the light by being kept in well-covered opaque or "non-actinic" jars and bottles.

R Ext. walnuts (green)	...	...	...	...	...	3ijss
Pilocarpine	...	...	...	...	...	200 grs.
Acid acetic (glac.)	...	...	...	...	...	q.s.
Acet. canthar.	...	...	...	...	...	3ijj.
Cetaceum	...	...	...	...	...	3ijss
Petrogell	...	...	...	...	...	3v.

Melt the spermaceti with a gentle heat, add the petrogell, mix, and when nearly cold rub in a mortar with the walnut extract until the whole is perfectly smooth and homogeneous. Lastly, add to the preceding the pilocarpine previously dissolved in the necessary quantity of glacial acetic acid, and the cantharides preparation. Any suitable perfume may be added, if preferred.—*British and Colonial Druggist.*

APONE.—A remedy for rheumatism, neuralgia, &c., recommended by Dr. V. Poulet, is made by macerating for one month capsicum 200 in alcohol 1000 and ammonia water 100, and adding to the expressed liquid chloral 10 and oil of thyme 10. For external use it may be diluted with oil. For internal use from five to twenty drops are taken with a little water, to be followed by a glassful of cold water or cold tea.—*Bull. Gén. Thérap.*, 13th February, 1886.

DENTITION SYRUP.—Dissolve cocaine hydrochlorate and borax, of each 1 part, in syrup of marsh-mallow 20 parts, and syrup of poppy 10 parts. Use three or four times a day on the gums.—*L'Union Médicale.*

NOSE REDNESS.—Dr. Unna (*Deutsche Medizinal-Zeitung*) has had excellent results from ointments of 5 to 10 per cent of an ergot extract rich in sphacelenic acid.

WARTS.—An exchange states that calcined magnesia given in five-grain doses thrice daily for a month causes warts to dry up and disappear.

Correspondence.

THE FOUNDERS OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.

DEAR SIR,—The omission of my name from the "happy few" of those mentioned in your article on "The Birth and Progress of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia" is so far interesting to me as that I am of opinion that, not only is the old horse *still alive*, but has yet got a kick or two left in him. While I am correcting this omission, permit me to claim the honour of having rendered, in conjunction with William Archer, the first great service rendered to the Society, and, indeed, its *originator*. The late Mr. Archer (the personal friend and pupil of Mr. Dean, of Clapham), with myself, came expressly from Geelong to avert the threatened danger to our trade by the "Poisons Bill" then before Parliament. We found the druggists in Melbourne quite oblivious to the bill and its insulting and injurious bearing to the druggists. We called on Fell, Geddes, and Walton, the successors to John Hood, in the shop now occupied by Simpson and Davenport, and afterwards on Ford and on Croad, and then, as there was no time to lose, we interviewed Mr. Haines, then Chief Secretary, and induced him to postpone the *second* reading of the Poisons Bill, which was to have been read that very night. After this no more was heard of the Poisons Bill; but the establishment of the Pharmaceutical Society was originated by the meeting at the Athenæum in the order much as you place it, and of which, as a member, I was among the first.—Yours truly,

Melbourne, 27th August.

J. TURNER THOMAS.

[It was not intended that the names of "survivors" given in our last issue should be considered as an exhaustive one. We are glad to know of several others who could, if they would only take the trouble, give similarly interesting evidence of their existence to that furnished by Mr. Thomas.—ED. A.J.P.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ANALYSIS OF HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICINE.

In consequence of the pressure on our space we are unable to insert in this issue a number of letters received on this and other subjects.

"THE DIARY" FOR 1887.

THE Diary to be issued by the proprietors of the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy* in December next will possess special interest for colonial pharmacists. It is now being compiled by reliable persons, and the information which it will contain will be especially ready of reference. It will be printed on good paper interleaved with blotting, and we venture to predict for it that success which, with the assistance of our friends, has attended all our efforts. Already a large number of advertisements have been received from English, American, and Colonial firms. It will be sent gratis to all members and subscribers whose names are on the books in November next. Advertisements must reach the publisher before the 1st November.

Obituary.

WE regret to record the death of Mr. Daniel Rutter Long, who was a very old and respected colonist, having arrived in Port Phillip in 1840. For many years he was engaged in the business of a pharmaceutical chemist, from which he retired in 1880. Like his friend, Mr. G. Lewis, he took considerable interest in municipal matters, and was the first Mayor of Prahran, and laid the foundation stone of the present Town Hall during his term of office. Mr. Long, at the time of his death, had attained his eighty-third year, and leaves a numerous family of sons and daughters.

IT is with great regret that we have to announce the death of the late Mr. George Lewis, J.P., whose name was well known to Australasian pharmacists as having been associated with every movement of pharmaceutical progress in this colony. Mr. Lewis was born in London on 2nd July, 1817, and was the eldest son of the Rev. Thomas Lewis, Independent minister of the parish of Penbridge, county of Hereford. He was apprenticed to Mr. Thomas Taylor, chemist, of Kington, Hereford, at the age of 15, for the term of five years. He was also for some time in the well-known house of Allan and Hanbury, in London; received his diploma from the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain in 1843, in which year he opened business for himself in Leicester-square. There he did not remain long, but purchased a business at Harrow, where he soon became one of the prominent men. Early in 1849 he left England for Australia at the urgent request of his brother-in-law, Mr. Fred. Cooper, for many years one of our leading chemists in Melbourne, and soon after his arrival he purchased the business of the late Dr. Wilmot, on the same place as the business now stands. The present shop was built by the late Mr. Lewis, who was connected with the same business until the time of his death. For a time Mr. Bowen was a partner with him. Mr. Lewis was the first Mayor of Kew, and upon his leaving that place in 1863, was presented with an illuminated address which was always greatly prized by him. Later on, in 1872, he was elected Mayor of Prahran, and for several years prior to his death held the position, with Dr. Fetherston, of licensing magistrate for that district. He was appointed a J.P. in March, 1874. His connection with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia has been of very long standing, dating from its foundation, and he was hon. treasurer of the society for over 20 years. In 1876 he was nominated by the Government as a member of the first Pharmacy Board of Victoria, and was at the first meeting of the Board elected treasurer, and held this position until he resigned in November, 1884. Mr. Lewis was very highly esteemed by all sections of the community, and his death will be regretted by a very large circle of friends. He leaves three sons, by whom, we understand, the business will be continued.

THE death of Mr. Wm. Carruthers, of Flemington-road, Hotham, is announced.

Trade Notes.

WE have received from Mr. C. A. Atkin, of Errol-street, Hotham, a sample of his quinine wine, and are glad to add our testimony in favour of this elegant and excellent preparation. *The British and Colonial Druggist*, in its report of the exhibits at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, says :—"The chief thing shown in this case is some of that world-renowned domestic tonic, quinine wine. Bright, and of good flavour, it may be stated, upon the dictum of an excellent authority, that the wine will compare very favourably with some of

the very best European makes, it having been carefully prepared of full strength, while it is also credited with the absence of copper or other metallic contaminations, and with the possession of good keeping qualities. In common with the other beverages now 'on view' at South Kensington, it may be sampled and tasted at the Australian bar, which seems likely to prove a most popular corner of the Exhibition."

Legal and Magisterial.

At the Collingwood Police Court, last month, James Mason and James McCarty were charged with selling adulterated milk. An analysis of the samples showed that at least 13 per cent. of water had been added. The Bench inflicted fines of £20, with £3 3s. costs, in each case.

Poisoning Cases.

A CHILD belonging to Mr. M'Intyre, confectioner, of Bridge-street, Ballarat, had a narrow escape from being poisoned on the 27th August, having somehow got hold of cockroach powder and swallowed it. Shortly afterwards the child was taken ill, and was taken to the hospital, where the stomach-pump was used successfully.

ON the afternoon of the 27th August the Rev. C. Thomson, of Windermere, drank about an ounce of laudanum in mistake for cough mixture. The unfortunate mistake was, of course, immediately discovered, and Drs. Radcliffe and Harvey were immediately summoned from Ballarat, and shortly after arrival relief was afforded the rev. gentleman.

Miscellaneous Gleanings.

THE death is announced of Mr. James S. Kirk, the well-known American manufacturer of soap.

A GERMAN apothecary was recently condemned to six months' imprisonment for selling tartar emetic as an emetic to a man with a fatty heart, who died from its effects.

AN American doctor has been giving frozen milk to patients whose stomachs did not tolerate ice-cream, and reports highly of its use in fevers.

THE oil factory of Messrs. Marchand Frères, Dunkirk, France, was recently destroyed by fire. The loss amounts to £80,000, and 500 workmen were thrown out of employment.

AT Walsall, England, recently, a chemist's assistant named Mills, who had been drinking rather too freely, took a dose of prussic acid to sober himself. He was found dead in bed.

THE death of two children sixteen months old, at Sheffield, "accelerated, if not caused, by an overdose of antimony contained in a Steadman's powder," has brought into prominence the fact that there are three manufacturers of powders whose names are very apt to be confounded—viz., Steadman, of Sheffield; Steedman, of Walworth; and Stedman, of Hoxton. In the present case the jury expressed their opinion that the instructions on the labels as to the dose or quantity to be given were inadequate, and that the vendors should be cautioned as to the selling them in the future.

THE *Australian Medical Journal* for August contains a list of the scale of fees adopted by the Medical Society of Victoria.

Publications Received.

"MANUAL OF CHEMISTRY (vol. 1.—Inorganic Chemistry), by Dupré and Hake, presented by Messrs. Rocke, Tompsitt and Co.

"Natural History of Victoria."—Prodromus of the Zoology of Victoria. Decade XII. By F. M'Coy, F.R.S. From the Government Printer.

Personalities.

MR. E. PROSSER, of Sydney, has been paying a short visit to Melbourne.

MR. W. J. WATKINS has arrived in China quite recovered from his late accident.

AFTER a stay of some time in Melbourne, Mr. L. Fairthorne has returned to Tasmania.

MR. JAMES PENDLEBURY has purchased the business of Mr. F. P. Fitzgerald at Newmarket.

THE *Government Gazette* of the 27th August notifies the appointment of Mr. Charles Edward Hirst, of 96 Spencer-street, West Melbourne, pharmaceutical chemist, to the Commission of the Peace.

At a meeting of the Executive Council on the 30th August, Mr. Graham Mitchell, F.R.C.V.S., veterinary surgeon to the Mounted Rifles, was appointed honorary inspecting veterinary surgeon, with the relative rank of major.

At the request of Dr. Rose, Messrs. Thomson and Shillinglaw had a long interview with that gentleman on the subject of the proposed Dental Registration Act. A number of suggestions and alterations were agreed to, and have since been inserted in the bill.

A GENERAL Index to the Year-book of Pharmacy has been issued. Members who are desirous of obtaining a copy should send in their names to Mr. H. Shillinglaw, hon. secretary for Victoria of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, Swanston-street, Melbourne. The book will be supplied at published price.

An object of great interest at the late Agricultural Show was the well-known pony of Mr. C. A. Atkin, of Errol-street, Hotham. The old fellow is thirty-five years old, has been in Mr. Atkin's possession over twenty years, and is a marvel of soundness and condition for his age. His genial owner, who is very proud of "Frolic," held quite a *levée*, and, amidst a general handshaking, wishes were expressed that the old fellow and his master might pass many years together. Frolic was awarded a prize in the Extra Stock Class.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

M'FARLANE.—On the 8th August, at 72 Smith-street, Collingwood, the wife of R. J. M'Farlane, chemist, of a daughter.

WADELTON.—On 17th August, the wife of J. Wadelton, Ryrie-street, Geelong, of a daughter.

MELHUISH.—On the 8th September, at her residence, 134 William-street, Sydney, the wife of Thos. Boucher Melhuish of a son.

MARRIAGE.

SINCLAIR—ADAMS.—On the 18th August, at 307 King-street, Newtown, Sydney, by the Rev. G. Lane, E. P. Sinclair, chemist, Newtown, to Caroline Lucy, daughter of the late E. R. Adams, of Newtown.

DEATHS.

BESTIC.—On Friday, 20th August, at his residence, Phillip-street, Sydney, Dr. Edward Bestic, aged 30 years.

LONG.—On the 22nd August, at his residence, Hampden Villa, Hampden-road, Armadale, Daniel Rutter Long, sen., in his 83rd year.

LEWIS.—On the 23rd August, at 12 Union-street, Windsor, George Lewis, J.P., chemist, Collins-street, in his 70th year.

THE AUSTRALASIAN

Journal of Pharmacy.

No. 10.]

OCTOBER, 1886.

[VOL. I.

Original and Selected Articles.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.—ITS BIRTH AND PROGRESS.

No. III.

OUR last instalment brought us down to the date of the first annual meeting. At a meeting of the council, held shortly afterwards, Mr. Bosisto was elected president; Mr. George Lewis, vice-president; Mr. Croad, treasurer; and the following committees were appointed, viz.:—Lecture Committee, Messrs. Croad and Wragge; *Journal* Committee, the president and Mr. Johnson; Publishing Committee, Messrs. Kruse and Williams; Room Committee, the treasurer and Mr. O'Connor. Mr. Lewis, the secretary, having sent in his resignation, Mr. Kruse volunteered to give his gratuitous services in that capacity, and was appointed.

Thus constituted, the council earnestly directed its efforts towards furthering the interests of the society, and, as illustrating the sanguine hopes which were entertained of its permanent establishment and future usefulness, the following extract from a leader in the *Journal* of 1st April, 1858, may here prove of interest. Referring to the progress of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, the writer proceeds:—"To say that the infant society of an infant colony will progress as rapidly would be hazarding too much; but, if an analogy may be drawn between it and kindred institutions here, it has everything to hope for. And though its field of operations must continue for some time necessarily limited, it has no old prejudices to break down, no old school to wear out. Its members are young, active, energetic, full of hope and enterprise, and, so far as we have had an opportunity of judging, liberal and free. It is, then, without anxiety the council resumes its duties this year, confident of the steady support due to its claims; and when the question of legislative application is brought before it, it will, doubtless, be entertained, and receive consideration in such a free, liberal, and enlightened spirit as is worthy of and may be expected from the representatives of the pharmaceutical chemists of Victoria." Alas! could the writer— But we are anticipating our story, and forbear.

Few who have made Australia their adopted country have achieved a more distinguished position or a wider celebrity in the scientific world than Baron F. Von. Müller, and it is pleasant to find the name of this veteran scientist recorded in the minutes of the society as that of the first-elected honorary member, the next names being those of Dr. Eades—now, alas! gone over to the great majority—and Mr. W. S. Gibbons, who is still among us, honoured and, we trust, prosperous.

A later entry affords pleasant proof of the interest that was being created in the society outside of pharmaceutical circles. It records the adoption of a resolution, moved by Mr. Wragge, and seconded by Mr. Croad, "that literary and scientific men may be elected by the council as subscribing members

under the same terms as associate members;" and a paragraph in the *Journal* explains that this resolution was come to by the council in consequence of having received pressing applications from gentlemen of undoubted scientific talent, and it was felt that such election could not act otherwise than favourably for the best interests of the society, by infusing into its ranks some of the best talent of the colony.

A paragraph in the first annual report, it will be remembered, mentioned that the establishment of the society had been intimated to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, whose assistance and co-operation had been solicited. The result is pleasantly recounted in the following extract from the minutes of 6th August:—

"The following donations were announced:—*The Journal and Transactions of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain*, from the commencement to the present date, and presented by the council of the society in London. The president, in announcing this munificent donation, thought it merited something more than a passing notice, indicative as it was of the kindly feeling felt for the welfare of the Australian chemists by the parent society at home, and felt sure that all the members present would join in expressing their warmest thanks for the same." Among other donations acknowledged during the year we find the following:—*Transactions of the Philosophical Institute of Victoria*, 2 vols.; *Fragmenta Victoria*, F. Müller, presented by the author; *Fragmenta Phytographiæ*, by F. Müller; *Moorewood's History of Inebriating Liquors*, by Mr. Wragge; and *Schlieden's Principles of Botany*, by Mr. Kruse.

Having thus obtained the nucleus of a library, the council passed a resolution instructing the secretary to subscribe to the Cavendish Society of London "for the purpose of obtaining those rare and valuable works for the translation of which it was established;" and, at the same time, deeming it necessary for the furtherance of the objects of the society that more eligible premises than those then occupied by them should be obtained, decided to take "the large rooms at the residence of the hon. secretary, Mr. John Kruse, 20 Bourke-street East—one for a library and reading-room, and the other for lectures and meetings of the society."

With the object of keeping alive the interest of country members in the society, the council next determined to select local secretaries to transact its general business in their respective districts, and the minutes of 8th July record the appointment of the following gentlemen:—Mr. Thomas, Geelong; Mr. Berger, Ballarat; Mr. Vogel (now Sir Julius Vogel), Dunolly; Mr. Witt, Beechworth; Mr. Eames, Belfast; Mr. Clowes, Castlemaine; Mr. Garsett, Sandhurst; and Mr. Ogle, Maryborough.

Hitherto the scope of the society had been limited strictly to the colony of Victoria, but a special meeting of the council was called together on 30th July to consider a letter received from Mr. James Parkinson, of Adelaide, which opened up the prospect of a wider sphere of action. The text of Mr. Parkinson's letter is not recorded, but its purport may be inferred from the resolutions to which it gave rise, and the reply made to it, which we give herewith in full:—

"Ph. S.V. Office, Swanston-street, Melbourne, 30th July, 1858.

"Sir,—I am instructed by the council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 10th of this month, and to inform you that a meeting of the council of the society was held to-day, at which the following resolutions were passed:—

"(1.) That this council, recognising the importance of branch societies in the neighbouring colonies, recommend their establishment founded upon the constitution and adapting the laws of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria."

"(2.) That one-half of all fees derived from the subscription of members, associates, apprentices, and subscribing members be handed over to the council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria for general purposes; the other half to be retained by the branch society for local expenditure.'

"(3) That all members, associates, apprentices, and subscribing members shall be entitled to the *Journal* of the society, and shall have it delivered to the local secretary free of charge.'

"I have the honour of sending you herewith a copy of the laws and constitution of our society, which will enable you to get all necessary information. With regard to your inquiries about honorary members, I beg to refer to the last number of the *Journal*, in which you will find an article headed 'Notice to Members.'

"I heartily wish you success in establishing the South Australian Branch Society, and hope the other colonies will follow your example.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

"JOHN KRUSE, SEC. PH. S.V."

A special meeting of the council was held on the 27th August for the purpose of considering certain resolutions passed at a meeting of chemists and druggists at Adelaide, and a letter from Mr. Parkinson. Unfortunately neither these nor the reply made thereto have been recorded in the minute book, and we are therefore unable to reproduce them here. It would appear, however, from the following extract from an article in the *Journal* for 1st October, and which we give here as illustrative of the kindly feeling existing between the two colonies, that no definite decision had yet been arrived at. We quote as follows:—"The chemists and druggists of Adelaide, we rejoice to see, are emulating their brethren in Victoria, and are endeavouring to form a local association, which has our warmest wishes for its success. Whether it will be independent, or will combine with the older one in Victoria, we believe, is not yet settled; in either case we wish it well, and would gladly see kindred institutions in all the other colonies too."

A Medical Bill, introduced by Dr. Embling, was carefully discussed by the council during the year, and although some modification of a few of its points were thought desirable, its provisions in the main were considered moderate and reasonable, and no active opposition was offered to it by the society. The minutes of a meeting of the council held on 22nd October record instructions given to the secretary "to inquire of Dr. Embling what day and hour would suit him to receive a deputation from the council;" but at the next meeting it was announced that the bill had been "thrown out of the House" the day before that appointed for the visit, thus rendering any further action unnecessary.

In the meantime, however, the council had not lost sight of the Poisons Bill referred to in the first annual report. On 1st April a committee, consisting of the president, vice-president, treasurer, and Messrs. Cooper and Croad, was appointed to frame a bill, but it seems that, on the matter being submitted to a general meeting of members, it was decided to let it stand over for a time.

The question of pharmaceutical reform also received the careful attention of the council, who, on 22nd October, appointed a committee, consisting of the president, treasurer, secretary, and Mr. Johnson (who, on resigning shortly afterwards, was succeeded by Mr. Lewis), to draw up a Pharmacy Bill. As the result of their labours was not presented to the members until the following year, we postpone dealing with the subject until our next issue.

The periodical meetings initiated in the previous year were continued, and excellent lectures and addresses were delivered by Drs. Müller, Eades, Messrs.

W. S. Gibbons, Bosisto, Johnson, Kruse, Sontel, and Osborne. The publication of the *Journal* was also continued with great spirit by Messrs. Bosisto and Johnson, the three numbers issued during the year (the fourth number having for various reasons to be postponed for three months, when a "double" number was published) containing an excellent variety of useful information, which should have rendered it invaluable to the subscribers.

But, alas! a lukewarm feeling had already begun to display itself—not among the workers and thinkers, but among the general body of members whom they were zealously striving to serve. The minutes of a council meeting held on 22nd October record that, in presenting a progress statement of accounts, the treasurer informed the council that several members had already declined continuing members, and matters had not apparently improved at the close of the year. The second annual meeting was held on 10th March, 1859, and the report then presented is scarcely of so sanguine a character as was its predecessor. Complaint is made that, "from the apathy of some and the removal of others, the number of its (the society's) members is not so great as at the close of the preceding year." The attendance at the periodical meetings and lectures "has not been so good as might have been expected, and it will be for the council for the coming year to decide upon the propriety of continuing them;" and regret is further expressed that, "with few exceptions, the members of the society have not availed themselves of the means of communication afforded by the *Journal*."

The report, after dealing with the other various operations of the society during the year, concludes with an earnest appeal to the chemists and druggists in the colony "to come forward and support the society, if not by their personal advice and assistance, at least by their subscriptions, and to second the efforts made by them to raise the standard of the profession, and also their endeavours to prevent the assumption of the title pharmaceutical chemist by the ignorant and unqualified, and so not only protect themselves, but also confer a very great benefit upon the whole community."

In our next issue we shall see how this appeal was responded to. In the meantime, to conclude the history of the year under notice—1858-9—we record that Messrs. Blair, Cooper, Thomas (Geelong), and Walton were elected to the council in the room of the retiring members, Messrs. F. Cooper, Thomas (Geelong), Thomas (Emerald Hill), and O'Connor; and that Messrs. Curtis and Long were elected auditors. The balance-sheet showed receipts (including balance forward, £71 12s. 7d.) £222 2s. 8d., as against expenses (including £99 for printing the *Journal*) £192 10s. 10d., the society thus beginning its third year with a balance in hand of £29 11s. 10d.

NOTES ON THE MANUFACTURE OF ARGENT NIT.

BY FREDERICK WRIGHT, LECTURER ON PHARMACY, &c., AT THE TECHNOLOGICAL COLLEGE, SYDNEY.

HAVING been recently employed in the preparation of large quantities of argent nit, I am glad to lay before my fellow-pharmacists a few notes on the manufacture of this chemical that, I trust, may prove useful to some of them.

Having purchased an ingot of silver weighing 1000 oz., I proceeded to feather it by fusing in a plumbago pot with a little charcoal to prevent loss of the metal by its volatilising, and pouring the molten metal into a cask of water. The feathered metal, when dried, showed a loss in weight of 42 grains in this instance, but even this trivial loss was partly made up by further scraping the crucible. The next step was to submit the metal to analysis, with the following result:—Gold, .023; silver, 86.887; copper, 6.792; lead, 4.981; zinc, 1.317.

The feathered metal was next dissolved in commercial nitric acid diluted with twice its bulk of distilled water, the solution of the metal being effected in a large stoneware jar well glazed, and sufficiently high to prevent loss by sprinkling of the solution. The action of the acid should be sufficiently slow to prevent undue evolution of nitrous fumes. The solution was of an intense blue colour, and was heated in Berlin ware dishes of 500 oz. capacity over a sand bath, and fine silver gradually added until the free acid was taken up. The liquid was next filtered through an asbestos filter, evaporated, and the crystals that formed on cooling were purified by washing and recrystallising until quite free from impurities. After separating out several crops of crystals it is necessary to remove the copper and lead present. The copper may be removed by concentrating the solution, and fusing the mass in an iron enamelled pan, whereby the nitrate of copper is reduced to oxide, and the mass, treated with water, yields a solution of nitrates of silver and lead, and out of which the oxide of copper should be filtered.

From this solution more crystals of argent nit may be obtained, which, however, will have to be recrystallised and washed, to free the crystals from all traces of lead. The lead is finally separated by adding a solution of salt to the solution of the mixed nitrates, by which means a precipitate of chloride of silver and chloride of lead is produced. The mass is collected on a calico filter, washed with hot water to free it from chloride of lead, and the silver chloride is next placed into a large earthen vessel with pieces of iron and dilute sulphuric acid. By this means the chloride is readily reduced to the metallic state, and, if the process has been carefully conducted, may be at once reconverted into nitrate by dissolving the fine metal in nitric acid. The process of reducing the chloride by boiling it with hydrate of potash and milk sugar has the disadvantage of necessitating the employment of a filter press in order to get the metallic deposit quickly washed and dry.

At times I have found it convenient to fuse and feather the reduced metal before re-dissolving it. Whatever gold is present may be reduced from the asbestos filter, together with the chloride of silver formed by the impurity in commercial nitric acid. If the chrystals are dried on blotting paper (as is frequently done when argent nit is made on a small scale), the paper employed must be burnt and the metal reduced from the ash, but I have found it convenient to employ a dark dessicator with an air-pump and crystal drainer attached.

I am well aware that there is nothing original in the above notes, and that much of the above is familiar to all students of chemistry, but trust that it may give a few hints to those who have found the preparation of argent nit by no means an easy task.

PHARMACY IN COUNTRY AND TOWN.

By "PILA."

VARIED and interesting as are the phases of the life pharmaceutical in the country parts of Victoria, those in town—by which I mean Melbourne—are not less so.

The pharmacists of your chief city, as a body, appear to me to compare very favourably with men of the same social standing in any of the great cities of Britain, and, in many instances, show rather more enterprise and energy.

Altered conditions probably account for this—the immense "possibilities" in this young country fanning the spark of hope that exists in the breasts of most men into an active flame. It was, to me, an agreeable but very great surprise to find on my arrival a well-organised, well-governed, and prosperous Pharma-

ceutical Society—the nucleus of future greatness. "B" seemed to be the initial letter of the more active members of your council, and, if I remember rightly, four of them rejoiced in names commencing with that letter—viz., Blackett, Bosisto, Bowen, and Baker—bees enough to start a respectable apiary.

Comparing country with town, the pharmacists of the latter are probably more energetic from necessity. We all sing the praises of competition in other businesses, and, although we may not relish it, we cannot escape. In spite of this I have sometimes experienced an astonishing apathy and neglect of opportunities.

The cultivation of a trade in effervescent drinks might become with many chemists a source of considerable profit, as has been proved in the United States, and in a lesser degree in England; but my experience here is that the public are not, as a rule, encouraged to patronise pharmacies for such refreshment.

One hot summer day, feeling extremely thirsty, I strolled into a suburban corner shop and asked for some effervescent drink. The young gentleman who presided in a don't-care sort of manner inquired if a seidlitz would suit, "because we don't keep any other;" and then he added, "You can get soda-water and lemonade at any greengrocer's."

This pharmacy was one of four or five in a good thoroughfare, where rents must be high, in an excellent position, with an attractive appearance. In such a place the drinks alluded to alone should pay all expenses.

The many hours some town pharmacies are kept open in a country where the eight hours' system is recognised is a source of astonishment to visitors, and it seems regrettable the bad habits of the old country should be so servilely copied here. Sunday trade, with a little management, might be reduced by being discouraged, whilst 9 p.m. is quite late enough for assistant or principal to be kept with nose to grindstone. In this connection I have noticed that the greater number of chemists in the southern suburbs close at or about 9 p.m., and I also find that they have formed an association for this and other purposes. I have been informed by the energetic secretary of this association (Mr. Chamberlin) that no one member has yet complained of a falling off in business since the hours of labour have been shortened.

The position of chemists in general throughout Victoria appears to be immeasurably superior to that of the same class in Britain or the other colonies of this group, thanks to the wise legislation prompted by energetic and far-seeing men. It now remains for the rising generation of chemists, in order to conserve their interests, to jealously guard the rights and privileges for which their predecessors have had to work so hard. And last, but not least, as a visitor from beyond the seas, I desire to express the admiration I feel at the noble building secured by the council for the College of Pharmacy, the energy and foresight displayed in obtaining an instructor of ability from England, and the general excellence of the arrangements in the laboratory, museum, and library.

"Don't prophecy unless you know," is a safe advice to follow, but I think I may venture the forecast that, under the fostering care of Mr. A. H. Jackson, and the careful business management of the hon. secretary, Mr. Shillinglaw, the Melbourne College will become the most efficient and attractive school of pharmacy and chemistry in the Southern Hemisphere; a point to which future Australian students will turn as naturally as those of England to London.

THE French Anti-Tobacco Society has offered a prize for an essay on the effect of smoking upon literary men and the chance that the habit may ruin French literature.

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Contributions of any items of interest are invited.

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Editorial.

PROPRIETARY MEDICINES AND SECRET NOSTRUMS.

HOWEVER much the views of the delegates at the forthcoming Intercolonial Conference may differ on the first four resolutions to be discussed, there is not, we think, much likelihood of there being any great divergence of opinion on the fifth, viz.:—"That the rapid increase in the trade of proprietary medicines and secret nostrums is antagonistic to the true interest of pharmacy." How rapid that increase has been within the last two decades is strikingly illustrated by the figures supplied in the recently published report of the British Board of Inland Revenue. Twenty years ago there were only 11,520 patent medicine vendors in the kingdom, and only seven and a half millions of labels were issued, yielding £60,000 to the revenue. Ten years afterwards the number had increased to 15,022, and nearly sixteen million labels were issued, yielding £123,000. Last year the number had increased to no less than 20,000 vendors, and twenty-one and a half millions of labels, yielding an income to the Government of £179,000. In the United States a similar or even worse condition of things would seem to exist. There is, says a writer in an American contemporary, "much of science connected with the calling of the pharmacist which calls for higher attainments than does any strictly mercantile calling, while, at the same time, the opportunity for the use of these attainments—in this country at least—is yearly becoming less. Pharmacy is fast losing its professional character, and becoming a mere trade, the large manufacturer possessing the science and doing the work that ought largely to be done by the pharmacist proper, the pharmacist thus becoming the

mere vendor of the manufacturer's products." In Spain, again, we learn from our recent files, pharmacy is reported to be on the downward path. "Shop after shop is being closed, and in some houses the receipts have fallen to one-fourth of what they were a short time ago. The decline in legitimate pharmacy is ascribed principally to the establishment of military pharmacies, and to the *increase of quackery and the sale of nostrums.*"

Our *confrères* in England have at last become thoroughly awake to the gravity of the situation, and at the twenty-third annual meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, the reports of which are just to hand, not only was the evil thoroughly discussed, but, better still, definite proposals were made for grappling with it. The subject was introduced to the Conference by the president (Mr. Thomas Greenish), from whose address, as we are unable to find room for it *in globo*, the following extracts dealing therewith will no doubt prove of special interest at the present juncture:—

There is (said Mr. Greenish) an evil growing up in the very midst of us, and assuming large proportions, which should be grappled with, I think, by this Association. I will call it "wholesale prescribing for the medical profession," absolutely dictating to that body in what relative proportions a combination of well-known drugs should be prescribed. These proprietary preparations, for the most part "factory made," thrust upon the medical profession, and unblushingly advertised, are sapping the foundations of true pharmacy, and at the same time depriving the pharmacist of the legitimate practice of his calling.

There can be no desire on the part of the pharmacist to limit the members of the medical profession in their choice of remedial agents for the treatment of disease; but that question is not involved in the consideration of this practice.

Pharmacists are harassed by the demand for these proprietary prescriptions, which prescribers take up without thought, and without a second thought thrust aside, their unofficial *pharmacopœia* being mainly the advertisement pages of the medical journals.

It is not the province of the pharmacist to call in question the therapeutic value of any medicine, but it does seem to him curious that a spirit, said to be distilled from a non-volatile drug, should possess any more medicinal value than ordinary spirit in a state of more or less dilution. What advantage can it be to therapeutic science to know that a certain compound has been found useful in a certain class of diseases if the composition of the medicine be a trade secret?

The members of the medical profession are largely responsible for the growth of this evil. Whilst in their collective capacity they strongly condemn "nostrums," yet, individually, many daily prescribe them. It is a practice perplexing to every pharmacist and derogatory to the medical profession, which justifies the apprehension expressed by Dr. Quain in his *Harveian oration*, that "the art of writing a rational prescription is in danger of becoming lost, and may, indeed, have a still more prejudicial influence now that the furnishing of gratuitous medical advice is being made the means of pushing the sale of proprietary nostrums."

This phase of pharmaceutical business assumes many different forms, and I ask you now to determine for your own protection to grapple with this hydra-headed monster before the knell of true pharmacy is sounding in your ears. . . . One way of doing this will be for us to see that we ourselves meet as far as possible the wants of the medical profession. If unofficial preparations of a certain type attain favour with the profession, why should we not as soon as possible place ourselves in a position to supply them? If after careful examination of such compounds *quasi authoritative formulæ* for their preparation were published, that portion of the medical profession which had seen such happy results from the use of the "nostrums" would, it might be hoped, if the formulæ were issued by the British Pharmaceutical Conference, be only too glad to prescribe them as *Mist. Magnesiae et Bismuthi Comp. B.P.C., &c.*, and every intelligent pharmacist could prepare them in his own pharmacy.

Mr. Greenish's remarks, it is almost unnecessary to say, met with warm approval from the delegates present, and later on it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Reynolds, of Leeds, seconded by Mr. Atkins, "That in order to secure greater uniformity of composition and strength in non-official remedies, and also to enable the medical profession to prescribe them with definite knowledge of their qualities, and without indicating any particular maker, the British Pharmaceutical Conference undertakes the preparation of a formulary of non-official remedies. Messrs. Greenish, Groves, Martindale, Dr. Symes, Dr. Thresh,

H. Martin, W. H. Naylor, Maben, Abraham, and Reynolds were subsequently appointed a committee, with power to add to their number, to compile the formulary; so that it will be seen that in England some practical effort is at last to be made to grapple with this serious evil. We have every confidence that the subject will receive equally careful consideration on the part of our own delegates, and if they merely succeed in devising some means whereby the growth of the pernicious system can be checked in this Southern Britain, the conference will not have met in vain. The fact that, in the course of his address at the last annual meeting of the Victorian branch of the British Medical Association, the retiring president, Dr. Henry, unequivocally condemned the prevalence of these "wholesale" prescriptions, leads us to hope that the medical profession in these colonies are awaking to a sense of their deep responsibility in this matter, and it might not be amiss if some effort were made by the conference to enlist their active support in the cause of reform. From their kindred nature, medicine and pharmacy ought ever to be united in friendly co-operation, and never was that co-operation more urgently called for than in combating a practice which is so inimical to the best interests of both professions.

Notes from Foreign Journals.

AN American contemporary ventures the opinion that if the specially-prepared specifics, cordials, digesters, emulsions, syrups, and concentrated essences "prepared by a process known only to the manufacturer, especially for physicians' use," increase in number and variety in the next ten or fifteen years as they have in the last five years, it will only be necessary for the physician to designate the disease, and you have the prescription already compounded "in a regular hand-me-down style, without the trouble of soiling your hands or cleaning measures."

How SACCHARINE WAS DISCOVERED.—In an interview with a representative of the *American Analyst* Dr. Constantine Fahlberg gave the following account of the circumstances under which he discovered saccharine:—"One evening I was so interested in my laboratory that I forgot about supper until quite late, and then rushed off for a meal without stopping to wash my hands. I sat down, broke a piece of bread, and put it to my lips. It tasted unspeakably sweet. I did not ask why it was so, probably because I thought it was some cake or sweetmeat. I rinsed my mouth with water, and dried my moustache with my napkin, when, to my surprise, the napkin tasted sweeter than the bread. Then I was puzzled. I again raised my goblet, and, as fortune would have it, applied my mouth where my fingers had touched it before. The water seemed syrup. It flashed upon me that I was the cause of this singular universal sweetness, and I accordingly tasted the end of my thumb, and found that it surpassed any confectionery I had ever eaten. I saw the whole thing at a glance. I had discovered or made some coal-tar substance which out-sugared sugar. I dropped my supper, and ran back to the laboratory. There, in my excitement, I tasted the contents of every beaker and evaporating dish on the table. Luckily for me none contained any corrosive or poisonous liquid. One of them contained an impure solution of saccharine. On this I worked, then, for weeks and months until I had determined its chemical composition, its characteristics, and reactions, and the best modes of making it scientifically and commercially."

IN an article on "Pharmaceutical Ethics," in the *Pharmaceutical Record*, Mr. Alfred H. Mason, F.C.S., exposes the absurdity of the outcry against "counter prescribing" as follows:—"I remember once being in the Isle of Man

when a bill was before the House of Keys, under pressure from the medical faculty, which provided for their protection, and made it an offence (liable to punishment) if druggists prescribed. The bill was to be read the third time that day, and the member for the town was on his way to the House (where he had previously strongly supported the second reading), when he came into the shop, complained of headache, and asked for a draught to relieve it. The chemist ventured to express surprise that he had supported the bill, when the member was astonished and asked for some explanation. 'Well,' says the chemist, 'if that bill passes it is the last draught for headache you will get in my shop.' With this the true state of matters came home to the member; he went to the House, vigorously opposed the third reading, and it was 'thrown out.'

LEICESTER, in England, appears to be a most pronounced anti-vaccination town. The *British and Colonial Druggist* states that the official returns for the 12 months ending June last show that the number of defaulters has increased by 3800, only 1041 children being vaccinated out of 4760 births. It is now estimated that there are about 10,000 defaulters in the town, and in order to enforce the law each defaulter would have to be served with two separate notices of his default, or a total of 20,000 notices. In addition to this each defaulter would have to be summoned under one section of the Act of Parliament to show cause why an order should not be made to obey the law, and then summoned under another section for disobedience to the order, making altogether 20,000 summonses. The summonses and notices together which would thus have to be served before the law could be enforced number 40,000. The law has completely broken down. The guardians meanwhile have stopped the vaccination officer from issuing a single summons, and have openly challenged the interference of the Local Government Board.

THE lines of demarcation betwixt "animal" and "vegetable" principles—so-called—always difficult to define, are (writes "Paracelsus" in the *British and Colonial Druggist*) getting practically obliterated. Heckel and Schlagdenhauffen have now detected cholesterine in chaulmugra oil, in the fatty matters of *Erythroxylon hypericifolium*, the seeds of the *Abrus precatorius* (Jequirity), and *Cesalpinia bonducella* (Bonduc.) Cholesterine has also (Arnaud) been found in the common carrot. Something very similar has been extracted from the oil of sunflower.

IN London, recently, a teetotaler, who had heard it stated that ammonia was the best substitute for alcohol, took a tablespoonful to relieve a pain in his chest. He died in great agony.

THE ADVANCE IN QUICKSILVER.—Such an every-day domestic event as a wedding would not be expected to affect the market, yet one of the causes of the recent advance in quicksilver is said to be a marriage. When such an important affair as the wedding of a ruler of the Celestial Empire is announced the etiquette of the country demands that the innumerable temples throughout the land shall receive a fresh dress, and as this dress consists principally of the sulphuret of mercury, it can well be imagined that the consumption of this brilliant pigment for the purpose would be enormous. From this it will be understood that the approaching nuptials of the Emperor of China has necessitated a tremendous outlay in vermillion, and a consequent demand for its chief ingredient. At any rate the recent demand from China, which included orders for four thousand bottles of the metal, whatever it was needed for, is reported to have been at the bottom of the rise in the price of quicksilver, though there were other potent causes at work which might have eventually accomplished this end without the timely assistance of the ante-nuptial preparation.—*Oil, Paint, and Drug Reporter.*

THE *American Journal of Pharmacy* has the following:—"We are indebted to Mr. W. B. Brownscomb, of Richmond, Victoria, Australia, for a communication on the results of the experimental culture of *Solanum tuberosum*, var., *boreale*, of which we were enabled in the latter part of 1884 to send a few tubers to Mr. Joseph Bosisto. Two tubers, weighing 30 grains, were planted 20th February, 1885, the first crop in August yielding tubers weighing 7dwt. On 4th November these were again planted, and on 10th March last they were lifted, the result being 18oz. The plants have flowered and seeded profusely, and it is calculated that next season the yield will be 4 to 5cwt."

THE *British and Colonial Druggist* publishes some correspondence between Messrs. Grimwade, Ridley and Co. and the Inland Revenue authorities on the subject of eucalyptus oil, and its liability to the Patent Medicine Stamp Duty. A sample of the oil having been submitted for examination, the Board of Inland Revenue state that it was found to be pure, and that "such oil would, therefore, seem to fall within the exemption in the Act 52 George III., c. 150, in favour of medicinal drugs uttered or vended entire, without any mixture or composition with any other drug or ingredient."

ADULTERATION OF DRUGS AND CUTTING PRICES.—The demand for cheap drugs will find a corresponding reply by cheapening drugs. We are learning of dextrine masquerading as part and parcel of powdered gum arabic, of large proportions of powdered starch in certain powdered drugs of vegetable origin. Adulteration seems to be on the increase, and for this we must in a large measure thank the cutters. These latter are demoralisers of common honesty in business, for they are making this once cardinal virtue an uncommon commodity among themselves, and reflecting the same hideous shadow around the community.

—*Pharm. Rec.*

"GLADSTONE POMATUM."—The London correspondent of the *Irish Times* states that an application has been received at the Patent Office to take the preliminary formalities necessary to preserve the sole right of manufacturing the famous "pomatum" in which the Prime Minister seeks oratorical refreshment. An enthusiastic female admirer extracted from Mrs. Gladstone the secret of the concoction of the celebrated elixir, and with characteristic shrewdness set at once about turning a little bit of confidence to commercial advantage. The Prime Minister is said to have consumed during his last campaign no less than 11 pint jars of this recuperative mixture.

Notes on Society Meetings.

At the twenty-third annual meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, which opened at Birmingham on 30th August, the chairman proposed—"That this meeting desires to place on record its sense of the invaluable services rendered by Mr. Sidney Plowman as hon. secretary for the last five years, and their great regret that he has found it necessary to relinquish the office." Special mention was made of Mr. Plowman's labours in connection with Colonial and Indian business, and the vote was agreed to with acclamation. The death of Mr. Bush, the secretary for New South Wales, was referred to with regret, and it was announced that Mr. Ryder Horton had been appointed to the vacancy.

AT a meeting of the council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, on the 4th August, the library and laboratory committee reported that it had considered the best way of carrying out a separate course of instruction in pharmacy, by lectures and class demonstrations, and recommended that such

lectures and demonstrations be given, consisting of one lecture and two demonstrations per week, for which a fee of £2 2s. for a five months' course, and £3 3s. for the season be charged, the society providing the necessary materials. It was resolved that Mr. Joseph Ince be requested to undertake the duties for the ensuing year at a salary of £50, in addition to the fees.

At the same meeting the registrar reported that one Thomas Williams, of Bristol, having made a statutory declaration that he was in business before the passing of the *Pharmacy Act* 1868, and this declaration having been duly supported, his name had been placed on the register. Better late than never!

FROM the accounts presented at the fifty-fourth annual general meeting of the British Medical Association, in August last, it appears that the journal of the Association costs about £2000 a year in excess of the receipts on account of advertisements and sales. The president, Dr. Withers Moore, devoted a considerable portion of his address to the consideration of the question "Is it for the good of the human race, considered as progressive, that women should be trained and admitted to compete with men in the ways and walks of life, from which heretofore they have been excluded by feeling and usage, as being unsuited to their sex?" This question Dr. Moore answered emphatically in the negative.

IN the section of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, at the annual meeting of the British Medical Association, Dr. Lauder Brunton claimed that there had been considerable progress made in that department. On looking back twenty years and noticing the advance of pharmacology since Crum Brown and Frazer's experiments directed it into a new path, he felt warranted in expressing the hope that twenty years more would make it possible to so ascertain the condition of patients that, either by the modification of a single remedy, or by the proper admixture of remedies, or by suitable changes in the diet or surroundings, a desired action might be ensured.

CASE OF ANTIDOTES FOR POISONS.—At the meeting of the Chicago Medical Society, Dr. G. W. Webster exhibited a convenient case of antidotes for poisons, with stomach tube. He said that in his limited experience in the treatment of patients who had taken poison, either accidentally or otherwise, he had often found it difficult to procure the proper antidotes quickly enough and in suitable form. It was this that led him to devise this case, intending at the time to have only one made for his own use. The case itself contains a pamphlet concerning poisons and their antidotes, a stomach tube, and the following drugs:—Ether, ammonium carbonate, nitrate of amyl, apomorphia, sulphate of atropine, brandy, camphor, animal charcoal, chloral hydrate, chloroform, digitaline, dialyzed iron, sulphate of iron, tincture of chloride of iron, mucilage, calcined magnesia, sulphate of morphine, iodide of potassium, liquor potassæ, acetate of strychnine, chloride of sodium, sulphuric acid, tannic acid, sulphate of zinc. The atropine, morphine, apomorphine, strychnine, and digitaline have been made up in compressed tablets and combined with soda, so that they can be given hypodermically.

AT a recent meeting of the Council of the Montreal Pharmaceutical Society, the following officers were elected:—President, S. Lachance; first vice-president, J. A. Harte; second vice-president, P. Mathie; treasurer, A. Manson; assistant-treasurer, secretary, and registrar, Wm. Ahern.

MR. A. H. MASON, F.C.S., read a paper on "Pharmaceutical Ethics" at a recent meeting of the Ontario College of Pharmacy, from which we quote the following:—"The British Pharmacopœia requires that certain potent medicines should be standardised, and prepared by a certain method—one of the most

noticeable improvements in the last edition of the B.P. is this requirement—yet it is only necessary for a wholesale house to label an article B.P., and the lowest quotation secures the purchaser, although a little quiet compilation with a B.P. before him will show the buyer that, taking the materials prescribed, the article cannot honestly be produced at the price sold."

Victoria.

THE PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA.

THE monthly meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria was held at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, Melbourne, on Wednesday, the 13th October, 1886.

Present—Messrs. Blackett, Brind, Francis, Owen, Strut, and Tompsitt.

The president (Mr. C. R. Blackett) in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION.

The following applicants, having furnished the necessary statutory declarations as to their qualifications, were duly registered as pharmaceutical chemists:—

Harry Loudon, Bridge-street, Ballarat, passed modified examination.

Alfred Drakeford Gamson, Ararat, passed major examination.

Henry De Baere, Beaufort, passed major examination.

Monkhouse Graham, 67 Swanston-street, Melbourne, registered under the Pharmacy Act of Great Britain.

The name of Wm. Paul Green, St. Kilda, was also restored to the Pharmaceutical Register.

APPRENTICES' INDENTURES REGISTERED.

Thomas Benjamin Huntsman, apprenticed to Mr. T. Huntsman, Fitzroy.

Henry Edward Harse, Clifton Hill, apprenticed to Mr. J. Christopher, Clifton Hill.

Charles Lingard Ogg, 150 Bourke-street, apprenticed to Mr. James Lacey, Bourke-street, Melbourne.

Herbert Edward Schutt, 5 Collins-street, Melbourne, apprenticed to Mr. E. J. Lewis, Collins-street, Melbourne.

CERTIFICATES UNDER SALE AND USE OF POISONS ACT.

Certificates were granted to the following persons:—

Michael Donkin, Kyabram.

Joseph Henry Neal, Romsey.

IN RE G. A. DIMOCK.

The board was occupied in taking evidence in this case during the greater portion of the sitting, and at a late hour all the business on the paper was postponed until the next meeting.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of the Council was held at the Society's hall, Swanston-street, Melbourne, on Friday, the 8th October, at 11 a.m.

Present—Messrs. Brinsmead, Baker, R. P. Francis, Huntsman, Hooper, Gamble, Kingsland, and Tompsitt.

The vice-president in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

An apology was received from Mr. Blackett.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

The following new members were balloted for and duly elected :—

Frederic Gamson, Ararat.

Albert Edward Earle, Bombala, N.S.W.

THE AMENDED SYLLABUS OF THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

This subject was discussed at some length, and the syllabus that is shortly to be issued will provide for two entire courses in each year, the first commencing on the second Monday in January, and ending on the last Friday in May; the second course commencing on the last Monday in June, and ending the last Friday in November.

The lectures on chemistry will be held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 9.30 to 10.30 a.m.; and practical work in the laboratory not less than two hours three days a week.

MATERIA MEDICA AND BOTANY.—Lectures on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9.30 to 10.30 a.m.

FEES.

For one course—Materia Medica and Botany	...	...	£12	12	0
Chemistry and Practical Chemistry}	...	...	
The entire session, two courses—Materia Medica and Botany	...	...	6	6	0
do do do Chemistry and Practical Chemistry	...	...	10	10	0

FEES FOR SINGLE SUBJECTS.

One course—Materia Medica and Botany	...	...	...	£5	5	0
do Chemistry and Practical Chemistry	...	...	...	8	8	0

The practical pharmacy classes for medical students will remain as formerly, so far as the duration of the term, but the council being desirous of bringing under the notice of the Faculty of Medicine certain alterations as to the compulsory attendance of students at the college, it was resolved that a deputation wait on the Dean of the Faculty, and lay the matter before him.

THE INTERCOLONIAL PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

The committee submitted a lengthy report, correspondence on the subject of the delegates nominated being read from Messrs. A. P. Miller, L. Fairthorne, and J. D. Johnson (Tasmania), Edward Taylor and C. H. Yeo (Queensland), W. J. Main (South Australia), G. Aicken and J. English (New Zealand).

The programme to be submitted was further discussed, and it was resolved that the report of the provisional committee be laid before the Conference.

The following are the official intimations as to the members who will attend at the conference :—

NEW SOUTH WALES	...	Messrs. T. B. Melhuish and James Mayne.
NEW ZEALAND	...	Messrs. Pond and Bonnington.
QUEENSLAND	...	Mr. H. W. Potts.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	...	Mr. L. Scammell.
TASMANIA	...	Messrs. L. Fairthorne and A. P. Miller.
VICTORIA	...	Messrs. C. R. Blackett and Thos. Huntsman.

The conference will be open to registered pharmaceutical chemists, but none but the appointed delegates can take part in the discussions.

Correspondence, financial and general business brought the meeting to a close.

IT is intended to establish a professorship of the Chemistry of Food in the University of Berlin. The holder of the chair is to have the rank of Extra-ordinary Professor.

THE VICTORIAN BRANCH OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

At the last ordinary monthly meeting of the Victorian Branch of the British Medical Association the president (Dr. Willmott) occupied the chair. Captain Wagemann, C.E., was present as a visitor. Dr. Snowball exhibited an interesting case of hypertrophy. Captain Wagemann read a paper on the Suëvern plan of disinfecting excreta, which has been long in use at Hamburg, and for some time under his own inspection. The disinfectant used is composed of 100 parts of quicklime, 10 to 12 parts of coal tar, and 15 to 20 parts of chloride of magnesium. He exhibited some excrementitious matter from the hospital, and sewage from the Spencer-street drain, which had been treated by the method. Dr. Jamieson agreed that the compound was a valuable deodorant, but thought that more was required for perfect disinfectant purposes. Dr. Willmott exhibited a new and improved form of closet, which is said to act as a perfect dessicator and disinfectant. The discussion upon the position of alcoholic stimulants in health and disease was postponed to the next meeting.

The Month.

PROFESSOR ORME MASSON, the recently-appointed professor of chemistry at the Melbourne University, arrived from England on the 16th inst. by the *Garonne*.

WE observe that Dr. B. H. Paul has been appointed to make a report on drugs, chemical and pharmaceutical products, at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

THE following appointment was announced in the *Government Gazette* of Friday, the 1st October :—Edwin T. Church, Kyneton, as officer for celebrating marriages.

THE Rev. C. Thompson, of Windermere, Presbyterian clergyman, narrowly escaped death by laudanum poisoning on the 17th September, having taken an opiate by mistake for a cough mixture.

THE recognisance in the appeal case of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria v. the Equitable Co-operative Society has been entered into, and the case will come before the Full Court at the next sittings.

THE November number of the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy* will contain portraits of the delegates to the Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference, in addition to the official report of the meeting.

IN consequence of the continued illness of Mr. Wm. Johnson, the Government analyst, the Government have appointed Mr. C. R. Blackett to undertake the duties, and have granted Mr. Johnson six months' leave of absence.

PROFESSOR M'Coy, the director of the National Museum, sailed for England on the 15th inst. At a meeting of the trustees of the Public Library, Museum, and National Gallery, held on the 24th September, six months' leave of absence was granted to him.

THE arrangements have been completed for the entertainment of the delegates to the Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference, and every day and evening during their stay has now its fixture. It is expected that their trip to Ballarat will be especially enjoyable.

THE inaugural banquet given by the council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia to the delegates at the Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference will be held in the Pharmaceutical Society's Hall, Swanston-street, on Wednesday, the 27th October, at half-past seven o'clock. Tickets, 21s. each, can be obtained on application to Mr. Shillinglaw, at the College of Pharmacy.

WE understand that Messrs. Cornell and King, of Ballarat, have arranged with the Benevolent Asylum committee to donate £75 to the funds of the institution to settle the unpleasant dispute. It is stated that the business of the firm will in future be carried on by Mr. King.

THE last sitting of the Pharmacy Board was almost entirely occupied in hearing and determining the evidence in the case of G. A. Dimock, a number of witnesses being examined. The decision will most probably not be made public until the next meeting of the board.

A PROPOSAL has been made to establish in Ballarat East a dispensary and consulting-room for out-door patients of the Ballarat Hospital, with the view of localising their treatment and saving them the necessity of attendance at the hospital. The town council favour the proposal, and it is said that some gentlemen of means are prepared to pay the expenses of such an outpost.

WE have been requested to state that the meetings of the Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference will be open to any registered pharmaceutical chemist, but that no one but the delegates can be permitted to take part in the discussions. The business will commence on the 27th October at 10 a.m., and terminate at 1 p.m., and be continued each day at the same hour.

THE following is an abstract from the *Government Gazette* of Friday, the 1st October :—"The (Imperial) Medical Act 1886 is published, Part II. containing the provisions for the registration of colonial and foreign practitioners with recognised diplomas. The Act provides for a separate list of the names and addresses of the colonial and also the foreign practitioners."

A RETURN has been prepared showing the number of inquests held by Dr. Youl, the city coroner, from 1st October, 1872, until 30th September, 1886. The total number of inquests held since that date has been 3208, or slightly more than an average of 229 per year. The highest number was 290, for the year ending 30th September last; and the lowest was 191, for the year 1875.

THE Government analyst, Mr. W. Johnson, has been offered an increase of £200 per annum on his salary of £400 a year on the condition that he shall relinquish his private practice as an analyst and devote the whole of his services to the performance of public duties. This proposal is the result of the complaints made against Mr. Johnson having, as Government analyst, to occasionally review his own decisions. Should Parliament approve of the offer, the increase will date from the 1st August. Mr. Johnson has for some time past been dangerously ill, and has been prohibited by his medical advisers from attending to any duties.

JOHN HEALY, a driver in the employ of Baker Bros., of Preston, was summoned before the St. Kilda magistrates on Friday, the 17th September, for selling adulterated milk. Mr. Woolf appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Daly for the defence. The evidence of Mr. F. Dunn, analyst, disclosed that the milk handed to him in a bottle, duly sealed, contained from two to five per cent. of added water. Mr. W. Field, who described himself as an analytical chemist, on the contrary, testified that a bottle of the same sample of milk, handed to him on the same day by the defendant, was upon analysis found to be perfectly free from added water, and was of fair quality. In face of this contradictory evidence the Bench were unable to come to a decision, and dismissed the case.

AT the twenty-third annual meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, which was opened at Birmingham on 30th August, the secretary, Mr. Plowman, after reading the list of official delegates, added that they had present several distinguished colonial and Indian gentlemen, who had come in acceptance of an invitation given to them by the executive committee. He announced their

names as follows:—Mr. Bowen, president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia; Mr. D. S. Kemp, of Bombay; Dr. Kernot, of Bengal; Dr. Trimen, of Ceylon; and Mr. Herbert Rocke, of Melbourne. Mr. Bosisto, it was stated was unable to attend, as he was then at work inspecting the wine-growing district, of Europe. The president heartily expressed the great pleasure he had in welcoming the guests, to which a suitable reply was made on their behalf by Mr. D. S. Kemp.

ON Monday evening, the 4th October, the introductory lecture to a course of biology was delivered in the College of Pharmacy by Mr. M'Alpine. The hall was well filled, and Mr. C. R. Blackett presided. The lecture was entitled "The Boundary Line between Plant and Animal Life." It was announced that the class would be continued on Mondays and Fridays during October and November. Each lecture will be fully illustrated by diagrams, fresh and dried specimens, and microscopic preparations where necessary. A special feature of the course will be Saturday afternoon excursions to places of botanical interest in the neighbourhood. The Victorian natural orders will be studied in the field, and a gentleman thoroughly conversant with the flora will be responsible for the naming of all specimens. Students will thus have an opportunity of forming a private collection, and a prize will be offered at the end of the session for the best collection of dried plants, to be decided by Baron Müller.

THE *British and Colonial Druggist*, of 21st August, publishes the result of an interview, in which Mr. Alfred Felton (of Messrs. Felton, Grimwade & Co.) communicated to our contemporary a large amount of information in regard to Australian pharmacy, and the general resources of the colonies, which will, no doubt, have been read with great interest by pharmacists throughout Great Britain. Naturally our contemporary was anxious to obtain Mr. Felton's views of English as against American preparations, and was frankly told that, although English manufacturers command the market now, they will have to bestir themselves, and use all their intelligence to thoroughly adapt their goods to the colonial requirements, or they will lose ground. Since leaving Melbourne, Mr. Felton has visited all round our Indian Empire, from Colombo to the Kyber Pass, thence down the Nile, through Palestine and Syria, reaching Western Europe, via Athens and Constantinople, by the Oriental Express route. In Ceylon he was very much interested in the cardamoms, which he saw being produced on the estates. It was also interesting, he said, to see the forests of chinchona, "so vast that there is not likely to be any difficulty in the supply of the bark for some time to come. Indeed," added Mr. Felton, "had I known of the existence of these forests last year I should not have anticipated a rise in quinine, which, by-the-by, failed to come."

New South Wales.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

SYDNEY, 14th October.

THE adjourned monthly meeting of the council of the Pharmaceutical Society was held at the society's rooms on Thursday, 23rd September, all the members being present. The proposed Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference was discussed, and Messrs. Melhuish and Mayne, the appointed delegates, were requested to draw up a programme of what they intended to do at it, to be presented at the next monthly meeting of the society, on Tuesday, 5th October.

At the monthly meeting on Tuesday, 5th October, the business was "The Conference;" and so much had to be done in relation to it that the meeting

had to be adjourned to Friday, 15th, in order to see that everything connected therewith should be attended to. Great interest appears to be manifested in it by the delegates and the chemists generally.

The Medical Practitioners Bill passed its third reading in the Assembly on 29th September.

Objection has been made by the chemists here to the last clause of the Act, it being considered prejudicial to their business. The clause referred to reads thus:—"Nothing in this Act contained shall extend or be construed to extend to prejudice, or in any way affect, the lawful occupation, trade, or business of chemists and druggists *so far as the same extend to selling, compounding, or dispensing medicine.*" It will thus be seen that the clause prohibits the chemists from prescribing, &c., and restricts them to the dispensing of prescriptions and selling of medicines. What the chemists require is the striking out of the italicised words.

Messrs. M'Carthy, Watt, Melhuish, and others have been doing their utmost to have the clause altered, and several interviews have taken place between Dr. Tarrant, the promoter of the bill, and the chemists with reference to the matter.

The following letter, which appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on the 5th October, clearly expresses the demands of the chemists in regard to this matter:—

"To the Editor of the Herald."

"SIR,—Will you kindly allow me space in your columns to draw attention to the last clause in the proposed Medical Bill before it comes on for its second reading in the Legislative Council. I may mention that some time ago, and before its second reading in the Assembly, a deputation, consisting of Mr. Reid, M.L.A., Mr. Watt, and Mr. Kebblewhite, president and vice-president respectively of the Chemists' Association, and myself, waited upon Dr. Tarrant, and pointed out to him the injustice of the clause referred to, and, in fairness to Dr. Tarrant, I must add that he cordially acknowledged the justice of our position, and promised the deputation to alter the clause from its present form to the following, viz., "That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to prejudice, or in any way affect, the lawful occupation or calling of chemists and druggists, who are at the time of the passing of this Act, or who shall thereafter become members of the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales, and registered by the Pharmacy Board of New South Wales." You will observe, on reference to the second reading of the Act in the Assembly, that Dr. Tarrant gave notice of his intention so to amend the clause; but unfortunately the bill has been hurried through without the promised alteration. I cannot conceive that this has been done intentionally, and have, therefore, drawn attention to it so that Dr. Tarrant may comply with his promise by having the promised alteration made in due course in the Upper House. I do not think it necessary or desirable to go over the grounds again upon which we claim this right, as they were fully discussed by me in your columns in reply to Dr. Anderson Stuart's article on the proposed Medical Bill, which appeared some months ago, and are, no doubt, familiar to your readers.—I am, &c.,

"R. T. BELLEMEY, Pharmacist, Newtown."

In moving the second reading of the Pharmaceutical Society's Incorporation Bill in the Assembly, on the 8th inst., Mr. Burns said that he understood that the Minister for Public Instruction intended to move some amendment in the bill, which he had not yet prepared, and therefore at present it was only his intention to take the bill into committee *pro forma*. Dr. Renwick made some remarks, from which a good guess can be made at the nature of the proposed

"amendment." The Pharmaceutical Society, he said, deserved every credit for what they had done; but there were certain difficulties connected with the bill which should be brought under the notice of the House, more particularly that portion of the bill having reference to the power to be granted in connection with examinations and the granting of diplomas. There were at present three boards which taught and examined. There could be no objection to the bill so far as the question of incorporation was concerned, but there would be danger with regard to the question of giving authority to grant certificates unless the matter was very carefully considered. If his hon. friend would postpone the matter he would render him what assistance he could in connection with it. The motion was agreed to, and leave was given to the committee to sit on the following Monday, so that I am unable to give you any definite information on the subject in my present letter. In the meantime, however, the opponents of the bill continue to carry on their crusade against it in the Press, and it is evident that a strong effort will be made to throw it out, or to so emasculate it as to render it worthless to the society.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

SYDNEY, 14th October.

The doings in the Legislative Assembly during the past month have been watched with considerable interest by the druggists of this city. The fact that the Medical Bill has been passed by the Assembly without the promised amendment *re* the druggist has given rise to considerable comment. At a recent meeting of the Druggists' Trade Association of this city it was agreed to represent the views of pharmacists to the introducer of this measure and to gain his consent to an amendment in the wording of this clause, and it was understood that the consent of the member in charge of the bill was obtained. However, the bill has come before the House and has been passed without alteration, and it is feared that the Upper House will pass the measure as it stands, as the Hon. Charles M'Kellar and Dr. J. Mildred Creed have both expressed themselves very strongly upon the advisability of some such Act being in force in this colony. It is difficult to say in what way it is intended to cause this Act to materially affect those druggists who simply engage in what every druggist deems his right, viz., counter practice; nor can it affect those who have a consulting-room attached to their shops, which in several instances in this city is let to a medical man during certain hours of the day; but it is thought that the only druggists who will be affected by this measure are those who visit patients at their own houses and who privately assume the title of a medical man. Fortunately for the pharmacists of this colony this class of persons is not very numerous, and the Act introduced by Dr. Tarrant professes not to interfere with the druggist in the lawful practice of his profession.

The Pharmaceutical Society Incorporation Act was brought forward in the Assembly for the second reading, on the 8th inst., by Mr. Burns, but was referred back again to committee, on a motion of Dr. Renwick, who stated that there were three schools in Sydney who laid claim to the power to grant certificates to pharmacy students, viz., the Pharmaceutical Society, the Board of Technical Education of New South Wales, and the School of Medicine of the Sydney University, and he desired to see the claims of all persons concerned fairly and fully recognised. It is greatly to be regretted that the council of the society do not see their way clear to make some arrangement with the other bodies engaged in teaching the same subjects, in order that all might be united under a joint management for the mutual advantage of all parties. If certain

of the society's lectures were delivered at the University it would give the students a higher status; and if the preliminary examination certificate were made the University junior examination certificate in certain subjects, it would be a step in the direction of that desirable consummation, viz., a College of Pharmacy affiliated to the Sydney University.

Much interest is taken by chemists here in the approaching Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference.

Business still continues to improve both in town and country.

Mr. W. Withers, of Burwood, has opened a branch dispensary on the northern side of the railway line, which he has had fitted up very tastefully in black and gold.

Mr. P. M'Farlane has purchased Mr. Sexty's business in Oxford-street.

Mr. W. J. Hobbs has disposed of his business at Orange to Mr. Sexty, late of Oxford-street, and has returned to Sydney.

The first course of lectures delivered by Mr. Edwin Quayle ended on 23rd September, after which an examination of the candidates was held. The student who obtained the highest number of marks was presented with a book valued at £3 3s., and each candidate who had attended seventy-five per cent. of the lectures was presented with a certificate. The second course commenced on 30th September. The course is to comprise the elementary principles of chemistry, chemistry as applied to pharmacy (including the testing of drugs for impurities and adulterations), qualitative analysis, and pharmacopœial volumetric analysis, to ascertain the strength and purity of chemical salts, &c.

A largely-attended meeting of the representatives from the various lodges in connection with the respective Friendly Societies of Sydney was held on 24th September, at the Royal Foresters' Hall, to consider the report of a sub-committee appointed on 13th August to confer and report as to the best means of establishing a dispensary in connection with the various Friendly Societies in Sydney. Mr. T. Curran presided. Mr. H. J. Peat, the secretary, read the report, in which it was stated that from the information that had been obtained it was expected that the dispensary would start with not less than 5000 members. It was intended to obtain suitable premises in as central and convenient a place as possible. It was decided that the report be submitted to the various lodges and societies for their approval and suggestion, and the meeting adjourned until 22nd October.

A travelling sewing machine agent, named Buckingham, has caused some excitement in Deniliquin by reporting the discovery of a mineral substance with a resinous odour and a gaseous and highly inflammable nature. The finder is very reticent about the locality; but, from hints given, it would appear to be in the Balranald district. Samples have been submitted to Mr. J. Cosmo Newbery, to the Sandhurst School of Mines, and to an analyst in Sydney, and the reports upon it show that it is valuable for gas-making purposes, and that it contains about double the quantity of gas which the same bulk of coal does. It is believed to be a mineral resin, and it burns freely when lit by a match. Application has been made for a mineral lease, and when this is secured the locality will be made known.

The seizure of an illicit still was made by the officers of the Distillery Department at Bankstown one night last month on the premises of Charles Biggs. Biggs was brought before the Liverpool Bench, and, pleading guilty, was fined £150, or six months' imprisonment.

Over 300 sheep belonging to a travelling mob died at Brewarrina through eating a poisonous weed, the effect of which was most marked.

At the Central Criminal Court, on 20th September, Jeremiah O'Sullivan was found guilty and sentenced to death for the murder of Ursula Margaret O'Sullivan, the child of a woman with whom he had contracted a bigamous marriage. Dr. M'Sweeney, by whom the prisoner was employed, stated that the prisoner had confessed to him that he had administered chloroform to the child, and the mother further testified that O'Sullivan had attempted to administer chloroform on the day the child was born.

At the same sitting of the court Carl von Bieren, a chemist, whose affairs have recently been a good deal before the public, was convicted of fraudulent insolvency, and sentenced to two years and ten months' imprisonment in the Goulburn Gaol.

Henry Thomas Kent and Caroline Roberts, charged with the murder of Mrs. Kent by poisoning on 29th July, have been acquitted.

A magisterial inquiry was held at Wagga into the circumstances attending the death of a Chinaman named Ah Sam, which occurred at Tarcutta on the 10th September. The evidence showed that the deceased met his death by some poison placed in a cake by mistake, and the finding was to the effect that death was due to accident.

Alfred Reynolds, who was convicted of the murder of his wife, by compelling her to take poison at Newtown on 13th August, was hanged in Darlinghurst Goal on Thursday morning, the 8th October.

South Australia.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

ADELAIDE, 13th October.

THE usual monthly meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia was held on Tuesday, 5th October. Present: The president (Mr. Harrison) in the chair, and Messrs. Beale, Young, Eyre, Parker, Wood, Long, Scammell, Main, Poole, Gibbs, Hill, and White.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read, and some applications for admission to the society discussed, the president announced that Mr. Luther Scammell, jun., was willing to accept the position of delegate to represent South Australia at the forthcoming Pharmaceutical Conference to be held in Melbourne shortly, and remarked upon the good fortune of the society in being able to avail itself of the services so efficient a representative could render. It was, he said, generally recognised as desirable that delegates from South Australia should be present at the Conference, and the offer of Mr. Scammell was now placed before the members that they might formally appoint him. Several members signified their satisfaction at this information, and Mr. L. Scammell was then appointed by unanimous vote.

The instruction of the delegate with regard to the views of the members on the various topics of the Conference was the next business of the meeting, and this called forth a long and interesting expression of opinion, from which it appeared that the resolutions to be submitted to the Conference were generally approved. In connection with the resolution affecting pharmaceutical education, it was thought by some that while a course of study was desirable, yet it should not be compulsory, as it would place many aspirants in a difficult position if they were obliged to attend lectures, &c., in order to obtain that pharmaceutical knowledge which is quite attainable by diligent home study, and through the many opportunities that occur in the performance of business duties. The "desirability of uniformity in Australasian pharmaceutical legis-

lation" was affirmed, and hopes expressed that such a happy consummation might be brought about; while the resolution relating to the rapidly-increasing sale of proprietary medicines evoked an energetic protest, on the part of the president, against the objectionable practice of physicians prescribing foreign proprietary preparations which can easily be made by any qualified pharmacist.

During this discussion, Mr. Hill, who is one of the committee appointed to investigate and report upon the desirability or otherwise of a Pharmacy Act, and the working of such Acts elsewhere, gave some insight into the opinions he has already formed, although the time for the presentation of the report has not yet arrived.

Mr. Hill remarked that the more he investigated the matter, the more he was convinced that a Pharmacy Act should be obtained as soon as possible. He spoke in very favourable terms of the Act in force in Victoria, and, during the course of his remarks, gave a short account of the rise of the British Pharmaceutical Society, and the object for which it was founded.

The intimation from Mr. Hill of his intention to give a paper on these subjects shortly was received with approval.

Mr. Scammell thanked the members present for the honour that had been conferred upon him, and expressed his desire to render good service to the society. The meeting then terminated.

It is improbable that a second delegate from South Australia will attend the Melbourne Conference.

Vaccination, which has hitherto been less rigidly enforced in this colony than it should, is now to be especially looked after, and no exemptions will be allowed unless a medical certificate of unfitness for the operation be obtained.

At a meeting of the University Council held on 24th September the following matters of medical interest occurred:—A letter was received from the secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons, England, forwarding the following resolutions passed by the committee of management both of that college and the Royal College of Physicians—"That it be recommended to the two colleges that certificates of having attended courses of lectures on anatomy, physiology, and chemistry, delivered in the medical school of the University of Adelaide, South Australia, be recognised." The secretary also added, "I am to remark that in the foregoing recommendation no mention is made of botany, as that subject is now excluded both from the curriculum of professional education and from the subjects of examination of the examining board." It was resolved that the letter be acknowledged by the Chancellor with thanks.

The question of excluding botany from the subjects of the medical course was referred to the medical faculty, and the editors of the regulations were authorised to act on the resolution of the faculty of medicine in regard to botany. The medical faculty were also requested to report at the adjourned meeting as to what steps were necessary to be taken for the appointment of lecturers in the medical school. The following circular has been issued by Dr. Poulton, who is hon. secretary to the congress committee appointed by the South Australian branch of the British Medical Association. The circular is dated 9th September:—"The South Australian branch of the British Medical Association proposes to inaugurate during the month of September, 1887, a short series of special meetings for the discussion of subjects relating to public medicine, hygiene, medicine and surgery. The congress will not extend over more than one week. In the month of September the International Jubilee Exhibition to be held in Adelaide will be fully established, and the season is, perhaps, the most favourable for visiting South Australia. It is anticipated that the run by rail from Melbourne will occupy 17 hours, and that special facilities for travel

will be afforded by the railway authorities and the steam shipping companies. The sittings will be open to all accredited members of the profession throughout the world, and it is considered especially desirable that gentlemen resident in, or visiting the neighbouring colonies, should be largely represented. The committee cordially invite the contribution of papers to initiate discussion, and will be much obliged if intending contributors will indicate the particular subjects they propose to treat. As the extent and importance of the congress will depend largely on the assistance and co-operation offered by the sister colonies, the committee hope they will receive early intimation from gentlemen proposing to attend the meetings. In connection with this congress and the Exhibition, it is intended to hold a conversazione and other entertainments, and conjoint trips to objects of interest in the neighbourhood of Adelaide will be arranged."

At the September meeting of the Royal Society a paper was received from Baron F. Von Müller, giving a description of a new plant (*Cochchorus Elderii*) discovered in the region north of Macdonnell Range by Lieutenant Dittrich during the expedition under Mr. Lindsay. The plant was named by the Baron in honour of Sir Thomas Elder. It was the most interesting plant in the whole collection made during the expedition.

An inquest was held at the Melrose Court House last month into the cause of death of a girl named Maggie Salmon. Dr. Pickering deposed that the cause of death was strychnine poisoning. The jury returned the following verdict:—"The deceased destroyed herself by taking strychnine obtained from a bottle belonging to her master, but there is no evidence to show what caused her to do it. We think it was improper on the part of Mr. Worden to leave such a virulent poison accessible to every one in the house." The strychnine was kept, it appears, in a bottle on the kitchen mantelshelf.

New Zealand.

BESIDES the suspicions of foul play in the cases of Captain Cain and Mr. Tate, Hall's father-in-law and late partner, the prisoner's name is now mentioned in connection with the death of a young woman whose body was found at the bottom of a well some time ago.

At Invercargill recently a man named Forrest, formerly a merchant in Dunedin, but who had fallen into reduced circumstances, committed suicide by drinking a lotion. He was removed to the hospital, where it was found necessary to perform the operation of tracheotomy to prevent suffocation. He died about six hours after taking the poison.

The New Zealand students at home appear to be holding their own. At a final examination for the degree of M.B., C.M., held at Edinburgh in July last, New Zealand had five representatives—Messrs. King, Jeffcoat, Lindsay, Cunningham, and Hawkes—all of whom received the much-coveted distinction, in addition to the ordinary pass for the degrees. The first-named, Mr. Truby King, of Taranaki, has secured the "blue ribbon" of the medical school for the year, in the shape of the Ettles Prize, awarded to the best all-round man of his year. The prize lay between Messrs. King and Jeffcoat, the latter being beaten only on a record of the earliest professional examination. Both gentlemen secured positions as residents in the Edinburgh Infirmary.

It is announced, apparently on good authority, that a medical examination of the remains of Captain Cain, the father-in-law of Thomas Hall, who is accused of having attempted to poison his wife, demonstrates conclusively that the deceased died from the effects of antimonial poisoning.

Tasmania.

THE event of the month among pharmacists in the North has been the election of a delegate to the Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference. The election took place on the 29th September at the Homœopathic Pharmacy. Messrs. Landon Fairthorne (Fairthorne and Son) and Frederick Holmes (Hatton and Laws) were the candidates. Thirty-two ballot-papers, evenly divided between Town and Country, were distributed by M. Johnston, the secretary of the Chemists' Association. Out of this number all were returned except one in Launceston, thus showing the great interest manifested in the election. The result was—16 votes for Mr. L. Fairthorne and 15 for Mr. Holmes, the former being thus elected by a majority of one. The votes were recorded in sealed envelopes, thus maintaining the secrecy of the ballot. Both candidates were congratulated on the result, the honours being so evenly divided. Mr. Fairthorne is the senior druggist in the colony, having been registered in 1846. He is also a justice of the peace and ex-Mayor of Launceston, and is in an independent position. From this you will see that our representative is one whose opinion is calculated to carry some weight at the Conference.

Mr. W. G. Cox (of Messrs. Hatton and Laws) has purchased the old-established business of Messrs. Sping and Harvey, in Brisbane-street, and took possession on the 1st inst. I understand that Mr. Harvey intends leaving the drug trade, and that Mr. Sping is going to Hobart.

At a meeting of the Launceston Chemists' Association, on 13th September, when there were present Messrs. L. Fairthorne (in the chair), F. Fairthorne, F. S. Browne, F. Holmes, A. N. Spong, J. Lay, C. Rawson, and J. D. Johnston, the following amendments in the proposed Poisons Bill were adopted, and the secretary was instructed to submit them to the Attorney-General:— Clause 10—"Owners of poisons not to leave them about unlabelled in unlabelled packages, etc., under a penalty; not to apply to chemists, as it would be impossible where large quantities were kept for wholesale." Clause 14—"That instead of the words 'in the form of homœopathic medicines, unless in the crude state, mother tincture or of greater strength than the third decimal potency,' it be 'in the form of homœopathic medicine, unless in the crude state, mother tincture or of greater strength than one per cent. of the crude drug allopathic and homœopathic, except solutions of the poisonous alkaloids and their salts in schedule 1.'" Several other minor amendments were also adopted. The bill is daily expected to come before Parliament.

At Hobart, on 28th September, Messrs. G. W. Towl and Joseph Coombes passed successful examinations as chemists and druggists for Tasmania before the Medical Court of Examiners, and were just in time to record their votes at the election of our delegate for the Conference. The new pharmacopœia was used at the examination, which was considered "a stiff one" by the candidates. Mr. Towl is at present assistant at Messrs. L. Fairthorne and Sons, St. John-street, while Mr. Coombes, who served his apprenticeship with Messrs. Fairthorne and Sons, is at present engaged at Messrs. Lithgow and Company's. Mr. F. Cottman, holding a certificate of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, has also been duly registered by the Medical Court of Tasmania as a chemist and druggist.

Information has been received that Mr. R. G. Scott, who went home in July, 1883, to prosecute his medical studies, has just passed his second professional examination at the University of Edinburgh. He is the eldest son of the Rev. J. Scott, of St. Andrew's Church, Hobart, and was a pupil at Horton College. Mr.

Walter Henry Toft, son of Captain Toft, also writes that in his second professional examination at Edinburgh University in anatomy, physiology, *materia medica*, and pathology, he successfully passed in all four subjects.

Queensland.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

BRISBANE, 8th October.

THERE is very little of interest to write about this month, and my letter must necessarily be very brief.

The following chemists were registered on 7th September by the Pharmacy Board, under the provisions of the Pharmacy Act of 1884:—William Ninian Jeffry, George Altorfer, William Corson, Louis König, William James Hunter, George Henry Pickburn, Fred. William Simmonds, John C. Towle, John Hall, jun., Francis Letters, Herbert John Tracy, Edward Cohen, William Coningham, and John Pears Potts. Three candidates went up for examination last month, and all failed. They complain about the questions being difficult, especially in botany, considering that we have no School of Pharmacy here.

I hear that the Pharmaceutical Society have elected Mr. Thomason as lecturer at the School of Pharmacy to be established; Mr. Schmidt, lecturer on botany, and Professor Pepper on Chemistry. Already there are some ten or twelve members enrolled, and more are expected. It is about the only way that assistants can really hope to pass a difficult examination.

An extra duty of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. has lately been put on drugs and patent medicines, which brings it up to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Mr. L. König, who has been “spelling” in Brisbane during the last ten months, has left with stocks for Boulia, almost on the borders of South Australia.

I believe, on good authority, that Mr. C. H. Hughes, of Maryborough, is going to take unto himself a wife.

The Opium Bill, the nature and objects of which I explained in a previous letter, has been thrown out in the Legislative Council, on the second reading, by a majority of 12 votes to 10.

The Acclimatisation Society have just received from India a small parcel of the seeds of those valuable plants *Elettaria cardamomum* and *E. robusta*. It is believed that many favourable localities can be found in our northern districts, where the plant would luxuriate, and the society have intimated their readiness to supply settlers desirous of giving it a trial with a small quantity of seed. It may be interesting to note that a plant of *E. robusta* was wintered at Bowen Park (in the bushhouse) without any protection, the lowest temperature being 30°. This proves the plant to be much hardier than is generally supposed, although the higher the temperature the more success will attend its culture.

At a recent meeting of the Blackall Hospital committee a long discussion took place upon the supply of medicines, the local chemist declaring that he could not reduce his prices as requested and make anything for his trouble, and subsequently resigning his position as dispenser. It was eventually arranged that Dr. Button be appointed to the vacancy for a period of four months at an increase to his salary of £80 per annum, and that prices for supplying the stock for the hospital be obtained from the various wholesale houses of Brisbane and Rockhampton.

At the City Police Court, on 10th September, Messrs. Kenny and Maloney, grocers, were charged with selling coffee adulterated with chicory to the extent

of 60 per cent. For the defence, Mr. J. G. Gibson, partner in the firm of Harper and Co., stated that the tins of coffee produced came from their store, that all the tins were marked "Coffee and Chicory," to distinguish them from pure coffee, and that some of the coffee leaving their establishment was adulterated to the extent of 60 per cent. He declined to give the actual proportion in which the firm mixed coffee, as that was a trade secret; but expressed the belief that the coffee produced was in the same condition as when it left their store. The case was dismissed.

The following item from the Adavale correspondent of the *Queenslander* may be of interest to some of your budding medical readers:—"There is no medical attendant within 120 miles of Adavale, and the consequence is that when a serious illness lays hold of anyone the result is invariably a job for the undertaker. A case of this sort occurred here last week, when a man named Joe Smith, late stockman on Nickaville Station, died (it is generally thought) for want of professional medical attendance. I believe that one squatter in the district has already offered to guarantee £150 per annum to a duly qualified man, and if the townspeople would only bestir themselves others would follow suit, and in a short time would raise such a guarantee as would procure a thoroughly efficient man."

Correspondence.

Our columns are open to all. We do not, however, hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our correspondents.

To the Editor of The Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.

DEAR SIR,—There seems to be a deal of discussion amongst our English *confrères* as to whether we should use aquae or aquam when water is ordered in a prescription to make up a certain quantity, say two ounces. If I might be allowed to venture an opinion, I think aquae is more reasonable. There is no doubt that q.s. is understood, aquae will then follow as a natural consequence (the partitive genitive being formed). The rule is "The partitive genitive is often found after the neuter of adjectives and adjectival pronouns used substantively." Quantum is one of these particular adjectives. The line would then run thus:—Recipe—Aqua quantum sufficiat ad uncias duas.—Yours truly,

Warrnambool, 12th October, 1886.

EUCALYPTUS.

ANALYSIS OF HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICINES.

To the Editor of the Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.

SIR,—In your issue of last month a correspondent, signing himself "F. M. S.," takes exception to the analyses of some homœopathic medicines a report of which appears in Messrs. Rocke, Tompsitt and Co.'s monthly price list.

It is to be regretted that the writer could not content himself with the question he asks without adding the paltry insinuation which follows. Your correspondent would appear to be one of those self-opinionated individuals bold to express their ideas, yet without the courage of their opinions, else why should he withhold his name? In his allusion to "quack remedies" he is treading on very delicate ground. The essence of quackery is secrecy, of which there is indeed little in homœopathic medicines, each bottle bearing the name of its contents, unlike the many preparations of the B.P., which are known by the name of the ingredient of which they contain least. It is quite unnecessary for me to mention some of these, and I do not wish to tread on the corns of druggists generally, with most of whom I am on very friendly terms.

I am writing only in answer to the spleenetic effusion of "F. M. S." because he could not succeed in his attempts at analysis. He is surprised at the success of a gentleman qualified for the undertaking.

I cannot help thinking that "F. M. S." has exhibited personal animus, for he seems to quite overlook such puffing advertisements as "Special Purity and Strength," "Prescriptions accurately dispensed," which are akin only to the mottoes exhibited over some of the Chinese establishments—"We don't cheat here," &c.—but is much troubled because a genuine testimonial is attached to the advertisement of a homœopathic chemist.

As is said in the missing friends column:—If "F. M. S." will make himself known, he may hear of something to his advantage.

Apologising for the length of this letter,—I am, sir, yours, &c.,

EDWARD GEO. OWEN

84 Collins-street east.

(Poulton & Owen).

UNREGISTERED ASSISTANTS.

To the Editor of the Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.

SIR,—With your permission, I purpose, through the columns of the *Journal of Pharmacy*, to call the attention of registered pharmaceutical chemists in general, and qualified assistants in particular, to a grievous wrong that is being done them.

It has become the practice by a few to employ as assistants young men who may or may not have received the "baptism" of apprenticeship, but who most certainly are not qualified; thus completely nullifying the intention of the Pharmacy Act, which is that, to protect the public, none but registered chemists shall dispense prescriptions or vend poisons.

Now if this practice be allowed to continue, to what purpose shall a young man go through the expensive and difficult course of training imposed by existing laws before he become a chemist?

His position is usurped, his "claim" is jumped, by outsiders, with perhaps a little money, but not sufficient brains to pass, and who try to gain a position by the use of the money which is denied them because of lack of brain power to qualify.

The danger to the public of having such incompetent persons behind the counter is very evident; but that part of the question will doubtless be dealt with by the Pharmacy Board.

Another important matter to assistants is that, owing to this illegal and unfair competition, the really industrious man who has regularly qualified is deprived of his chance of a salary commensurate with his abilities, whilst the pirates—for such they are—are for their own ends ruining the business.

It is also necessary for the entire body of Victorian pharmaceutical chemists to bear in mind that certain individuals without a certificate, and consequently unregistered, are, under the protection of the names of trading firms, dispensing prescriptions, dealing in poisons, and assuming to themselves titles calculated to mislead the public, such as "herbal chemist," "analytical chemist," and other fanciful names.

Fortunately our Pharmacy Act is good and clear, and equally fortunate are the chemists of Victoria in having an efficient Board of Pharmacy, the members of which are not likely to allow sinners to go unpunished, but will, we may be sure, lop off these unhealthy excrescences, or compel them to reform and enter in at the straight gate.—Faithfully yours,

JAMES BRINSMEAD.

High-street, St. Kilda, 24th September, 1886.

SALE AND USE OF POISONS ACT 1876.

THE following appeared in the *Government Gazette* of the 8th October, 1886:—

PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency Sir Henry Brougham Loch, Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath; Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Victoria and its dependencies, &c., &c., &c.

WHEREAS by *The Sale and Use of Poisons Act* 1876 it was amongst other things enacted that the several articles mentioned in the First Schedule thereto should be deemed poisons within the meaning of the said Act; and, on the recommendation of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, the Governor in Council might, by proclamation duly published in the *Government Gazette*, from time to time declare that any other article specified in such proclamation should be deemed a poison within the meaning of the said Act; and whereas the said Pharmacy Board of Victoria have recommended to the Governor in Council that a Proclamation be issued declaring that the articles hereunder specified be deemed to be poisons within the meaning of the above recited Act: Now therefore I, the Governor of Victoria, with the advice of the Executive Council, do by this my Proclamation declare that the undermentioned articles shall be deemed to be poisons within the meaning of the said Act, that is to say:—

Carbolic Acid.	Elaterium.
Chloride of Antimony.	Elaterine.
Barium, Salts of.	Nux Vomica.
Zinc Chloride.	Nitro-glycerine (medicinal).
Creosote.	Digitalis, and its preparations.

Phosphorus (except red amorphous).

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Colony at Melbourne, this fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and eighty-six, and in the fiftieth of Her Majesty's reign.

(L.S.)

HENRY B. LOCH.

By his Excellency's Command,

ALFRED DEAKIN,

Chief Secretary.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN !

Miscellaneous Gleanings.

It is reported that the owner of a patent medicine, living in New York, has recently contracted with a printer for supplying him with 40,000,000 pamphlets of 32 pages, and 400,000,000 circulars of four pages each. The price to be paid is 800,000 dollars.

ARTIFICIAL NOSES.—A rhinoplastic conference has taken place in Berlin, under the auspices of the Empress. The rhinoplastic art consists in the fabrication of new noses, and the reparation and amendment of inferior and damaged noses. In cases where the original organ has been mutilated it has been the custom to model it from the flesh removed from some part of the body which furnishes the necessary material. These newly-fashioned noses, lacking the cartilaginous foundation, tremble and oscillate at every movement. A professor has now discovered a way out of the difficulty.

THE sale of "hopein," or any of its preparations, including "hopein beer," has been strictly forbidden in Austria. It is not allowed to be kept in stock in the pharmacy, or even supplied upon the order of a medical man.

WHILE some harness paste was being mixed recently in a chemist's shop at Bury, England, the vapour from the turpentine (one of the ingredients) coming in contact with a gas light, caught fire, and the whole of the spirit blazed up. An assistant, who made an effort to carry the mortar into the street, was frightfully burnt, and a customer, who went to his aid, also sustained damage.

IT has been noted as a curious fact that the chinchona trees grown in hot-houses develop no quinine in their bark.

THE camphor laurel, from which the camphor of commerce is obtained, has been successfully introduced in California. It is a native of China.

SOME sensation was recently created in chemical circles in London by the announcement that a certain Dr. Cresswell Hewett had discovered the synthetical or artifical mode of making quinine, by which the price of that drug would be reduced to something like threepence per ounce. Inquiries subsequently instituted discredit the claims of the supposed inventor.

SOME misunderstanding exists among the public as to the signification of "chemist" and "apothecary." A suggestion has been made by a German, who objects to the word "apotheker" as of foreign origin, that the Teutonic pharmacist should be styled "Gesundheitswiederherstellungsmittelzusammenmischungskundiger."

AT a recent meeting of the Dresden Agricultural Society a local druggist reported that in a neighbourhood where the deadly nightshade grew abundantly the bees had incorporated with the honey sufficient poison from these flowers to account for numerous and occasionally fatal cases of poisoning. He also stated that gelsemium had been detected in American honey.

A RECENTLY published report of the British Commissioners of Inland Revenue shows that in 1886, in connection with the patent medicine trade, 20,279 vendors' licenses were issued, the amount of duty charged being £5070. The number of patent medicine labels issued in the same year was 21,468,718, the amount of duty charged being £179,071.

IT is reported that the use of ergot for illicit purposes has increased to such an extent in Rome that a caution has been issued to pharmacists and midwives that, if they violate the regulation requiring the retention of the prescription the first time it has been dispensed, they will be subjected to criminal proceedings.

A LONDON physician, who for six months tested Dr. Jaeger's plan of wearing nothing but wool day or night, says the result has been a complete immunity from colds and a marked increase in capacity for work. Instead of alternate feelings of heat and cold there has been a uniform and most agreeable glow of warmth.

AT the fire which recently destroyed the left wing of the University of Brussels, fifty students were promptly organised to save the most valuable books in the library, which contained 64,000 volumes, and succeeded in doing so. The unique collection of surgical instruments was also rescued from destruction, but the valuable mineralogical collection was entirely consumed.

ELECTRIC DRUG CASE FOR POISONS.—A New Orleans druggist has contrived a drug case, in which is kept all the deadly poisons in use for the compounding of prescriptions. The device is worked by electricity. Whenever the case is opened an alarm is sounded by an electric bell, attached to the upper portion, which will not cease ringing until the case is closed. It was suggested to him by the many mistakes made by druggists in compounding prescriptions in which poison was used for a similar drug in appearance. The apparatus precludes all possibility of a poison being used without the person in attendance being cognisant of the fact that deadly drugs are being handled.

Poisoning Cases.

AT Ballarat a plumber named Sinclair Faulkner attempted to commit suicide by taking an overdose (1oz.) of chlorodyne.

A WOMAN named Robinson, who was recently arrested at Somerville, Massachusetts, for poisoning her son, is now suspected of having murdered 100 persons by the same means during the last four years. Many of them are stated to have met their death by poisoned eatables, of which they partook at a church festival.

JOSEPH OVENDON, of H.M.C.S. *Nelson*, died on Wednesday, the 6th October, from the effects of carbolic acid, which he had swallowed, mistaking it for beer. It appears he had some beer in a bottle, and an equal quantity of carbolic acid in another bottle in his cabin, and during Tuesday he drank a portion of the acid in mistake for the beer. He at once informed the ship's chemist, who immediately administered an emetic; but he gradually became unconscious, and died, in spite of the efforts of a doctor, who had been summoned. An inquest was held on the same day before Dr. Youl, and a verdict returned in accordance with the foregoing particulars.

A LONDON contemporary gives the particulars of a very sad case, in which a chemist, Mr. Jones, of Finsbury Pavement, administered carbolic acid in mistake for solution of bismuth, the patient dying a few minutes afterwards. Mr. Jones, who has been in business for himself for 22 years, stated in evidence that it was his intention to give the following draught:—Solution of bismuth, 5j. to 5iss.; bicarbonate of soda, 5ss.; aromatic spirit of ammonia, 5ss.; water, to 2 oz. By accident he had used the bottle containing carbolic acid instead of the one containing solution of bismuth. The bottles, which were produced at the inquest, were both of the same size and shape, but the carbolic acid bottle had a glass stopper, while the bismuth solution had a cork. Mr. Jones stated that he could not explain how he made the mistake. He kept both bottles in one cupboard, separated by another bottle, and they had got transposed. He generally read the labels on his bottles before dispensing, but used the different bottles by intuition. The medical evidence, however, favoured the view that the sudden death was due more to fatty degeneration of the heart than to the carbolic acid. Mr. Jones was cautioned by the coroner, and expressed his bitter regret for the accident.

Formulae : Original and Selected.

STICKY FLY-PAPER.—Resin in clean pieces, 4 troy oz.; castor oil, 2 fl. oz. Melt together by means of a water-bath, and spread on sized paper. Sized paper must be used, or the oil will produce the characteristic transparent stain of fixed oils. If glucose, mixed with dextrine, is added to attract the flies, the paper should be paraffined. The following has also been highly recommended:—Resin, 10 parts; gum thus, 5 parts; linseed oil, 7 parts. Dissolve by aid of a gentle heat, and apply as directed above.—*National Druggist*.

BAY RUM.—Take 2 pounds of leaves of the *Myrtus acris*, $\frac{1}{2}$ pound cardamoms, 2 ounces cassia, $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounce cloves, and 9 quarts rum. Distil $1\frac{1}{2}$ gallon. Bay rum may be coloured with tincture of saffron or with a mixture of equal parts caramel and tincture of turmeric.—*Druggist's Journ.*

PERFUMES FOR COLD CREAM.—1. Coumarin, 0·05 (4·5 grain); oil of rose, 1·5 (25 grains); oil neroli, 0·5 (7 grains); oil rose geranium, 5 drops; oil ylang, 2 drops; oil orris, 1 drop; tinet. ambergris (1:10), 3 drops. 2. Coumarin, 0·05 (4·5

grain); oil of rose, 0·5 (7 grains); oil neroli, 0·5; oil bergamot, 0·5; oil winter-green, 5 drops; oil ylang, 1 drop; tinct. musk (1:10), 3 drops. 3. Coumarin, 0·05 (4·5 grain); oil of bergamot, 2· (½ dram); oil rose, 0·5 (7 grains); oil bitter almonds, 10 drops; tinct. ambergris, 5 drops.

THOMPSON'S EYE WATER.—Zinc sulphate, 20 grains; copper sulphate, 5 grains; tinct. saffron, 2 drachms; tinct. camphor, 1 drachm; rose water, 8 ounces; distil. water, 8 ounces. Mix and filter.

COMMON SALT AS AN ANTISEPTIC.—The *Medical Bulletin* says:—"The ideal antiseptic is an article which combines the three qualities of cheapness, effectiveness, and harmlessness to the patient. Such an article is the chloride of sodium, or common salt. It can be used in a solution of any strength in the same manner as other germicidal agents are employed."

FOR THE NAUSEA OF PREGNANCY.—Powdered Colombo root; powdered sugar, à à 15 parts; senna leaves, 4 parts; boiling water, 475 parts. Infuse. A wineglassful before each meal.—DR. FORWOOD, in *L'Union Médicale*.

IT IS STATED THAT THE PASSAGE OF A SPONGE SATURATED WITH STRONG ETHER OVER AN ADHESIVE PLASTER WILL CAUSE THE LATTER TO ADHERE FIRMLY TO THE SKIN.

MOTHS.—Thymol, salicylic acid, of each 2 grammes, dissolved in 200 grammes of alcohol, perfumed with 1 gramme oil of lemon. The *Apotheke Zeitung* recommends this solution as very efficient in destroying moths and their brood. It leaves no stain, and the odour is pleasant, and easily removed by airing the materials to which the solution has been applied.

Notes and Abstracts.

URETHANE AS AN ANTIDOTE TO STRYCHNINE.—From the *British Medical Journal* we learn that some very interesting observations have quite recently been made by Professor Coze on the subject of the physiological effects of urethane, and more particularly on its antagonism to those of strychnine. The first point is its extreme tolerance when injected subcutaneously, or into the peritoneal cavity. Eight to ten grains so injected did not set up any local irritation in the frog, nor did 30 grains in the guinea-pig. No symptoms of gastric irritation were produced by from 80 to 100 grains given by the mouth in rabbits. The effect of the drug on the blood appears to consist in an increase of the amount of oxygen (4 per cent.); and the nervous exhaustion which follows its use may, perhaps, be attributable to the greater difficulty with which the blood parts with its oxygen in favour of the nervous system. Dr. Coze suggests that clinical use should be made of the drug in conditions attended with convulsions, and more especially in cases of tetanus.

COMMERCIAL ORPIMENT AS A DEPILATORY.—The following note is of interest to chemists and druggists from the fact that orpiment is understood to be the active ingredient in the most successful depilatories for the human skin. Orpiment (*orpén*) is not the true orpiment—a yellow arsenic trisulphide—but it is red, and agrees approximately in composition with realgar, or arsenic disulphide. It contains, however, a little trisulphide. In tanyards it is applied mixed with lime, either to the flesh side of the hide only, if it is intended to preserve the wool or hair, or the hides are entirely immersed in the same mixture. The arsenic sulphide dissolves in the hydrated lime, forming a soluble sulpho-salt, which reacts upon the animal tissue, causing it to swell up so that the hairs easily become detached. Hides which have been steeped in water previous to unhauling present afterwards black spots in parts which, while still moist, have been in contact with articles of rusty iron, or upon which particles of iron have

become fixed. There are then formed ferruginous spots, which the sulpho-salt afterwards converts into black iron sulphide. Such spots are most frequent when the skins, before being handed over to the tanner, have been dried in presence of preservative agents, so called, which contain iron. The black spots consist simply of iron sulphide free from foreign matters.—M. Terreil, *Bull. de la Soc. Chim. de Paris*.

AN HYPNOTIC AND ANODYNE.—In the August issue of the *Therapeutic Gazette* Dr. F. S. Halsey describes several cases in which he has used *Piscidia erythrina* with success. "I have found it," he says, "to be an excellent hypnotic anodyne, and in no one case in which I employed it has it failed to relieve pain and induce sleep." One great advantage said to be connected with it, is that patients after taking it awake with none of the unpleasant after-affects which opium induces.

In the *Therapeutic Gazette*, Dr. R. L. Hinton, of Arkansas, bears testimony to the value of cocaine hydrochlorate to relieve pain and tenesmus in dysentery. He administered it in the form of an injection of 2 or 3 drachms of a 4 per cent. solution, with most successful results.

THE PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA QUARTERLY EXAMINATIONS.

The following were the questions used:—

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION—1ST SEPTEMBER, 1886.

Time allowed, three hours.

LATIN.—Translation and Grammar ; Caesar, *De Bello Gallico*, Book I.

(1) Translate closely and literally—(a) Erant omnino itinera duo, quibus itineribus domo exire possent : unum per Sequanos, angustum et difficile, inter montem Juram et flumen Rhodanum, vix qua singuli carri ducerentur ; mons autem altissimus impendebat ut facile perpauci prohibere possent : alterum per provinciam nostram, multo facilis atque expeditius propterea quod inter fines Helvetiorum et Allobrogum, qui nuper pacati erant, Rhodanus fluit isque nonnullis locis vado transitur. (b) Quamobrem placuit ei ut ad Arioivistum legatos mitteret qui ab eo postularent uti aliquem locum medium utriusque colloquio diceret: velle sese de re publica et summis utriusque rebus cum eo agere.

(2) Parse the italicised words in the above.

(3) Answer the following questions on the above passages:—(a) What peculiarity of Caesar's style do you notice in the first sentence in (a)? (b) What is the exact force of "possent"? If "poterant" had been used, what would its effect have been? (c) What kind of numeral is "singuli"? Mention two others of the same sort. (d) What is the genitive plural of "mons"? (e) What is the meaning of "per" in "perpauci"? (f) Why does Caesar use "alterum," not "aliud"? (g) What does "expeditius" agree with? Give the masculine form of it. (h) What case is "colloquio," and why? (i) Why is "velle" infinitive?

(4) Decline substantive facinus, pronoun alius, adjective minor.

(5) Give principal parts and meanings of—queror, quaero, vinceo, vincio, vivo, video, viso.

(6) Write out in full—(a) Past imperfect subjunctive passive of remitto. (b) Future indic. active of reduco. (c) Perfect participle passive of appeto.

(7) Translate into Latin—(a) If you desire to enjoy peace, it is unfair to object to the tax. (b) Caesar feared that the Helvetii would lay waste the country. (c) My brother said that he would come.

ENGLISH.—Grammar and Composition.

(1) Give the full analysis of the sentence—"But she had now accomplished the capital objects which her own vision had dictated."

(2) Parse every word in—"Let old Timotheus yield the prize."

(3) Write a short piece of composition, paying great attention to spelling and punctuation, on "Reading as a means of mental improvement;" or, "Football as a recreation." [N.B.—Good careful composition tells greatly in the candidate's favour.]

ARITHMETIC.—First four rules, simple and compound; vulgar and decimal fractions, and simple and compound proportion. British and Metrical systems of Weights and Measures.

(1) A man going on a week's tour takes £20 in his pocket, and spends on each day £1 13s. 7d., £1 2s. 9d., £2 1s. 4d., £1 16s. 5d., £1 17s. 6d., £2 2s. 10d., and £1 1s. 5d. How much has he left at the end of the week?

(2) Find value of $\frac{3}{8} \text{ £} + \frac{5}{10} \text{ £} - \frac{3}{12} \text{ £}$.

(3) Simplify $\frac{3\frac{5}{8} + 2\frac{5}{12}}{5\frac{4}{5} + 2\frac{9}{10}} = \frac{1\frac{5}{24}}{1\frac{9}{20}}$, and reduce your answer to a decimal.

(4) How many times can a length of $\frac{4}{15}$ ths of an inch be cut off from a rod 4 feet long; and what will be the length of the remaining piece?

(5) 2370 men have provisions for 57 days, and after 17 days 120 men go away: how long will the remaining provisions last the men who are left?

(6) Suppose that 100 litres = 22 gallons, and that a gallon weighs 160 ozs. avoirdupois, find how many lbs. avoirdupois there are in 5 kilolitres.

MAJOR EXAMINATION, 6TH AND 7TH SEPTEMBER, 1886.

QUESTIONS IN PRACTICAL PHARMACY.—EXAMINERS, MESSRS. FRANCIS AND OWEN.

Time allowed, one hour.

DIVISION I.—DISPENSING—PRACTICAL WORK.

(1) Read five autograph prescriptions.

(2) Dispense:—R Mist. amygd., ʒiv; syr. scillæ, 5iii; tr. opii, gtt. xl.
Misce. Quod unciat sumatur tussi admodum ingravesc.

(3) R Pulv. jalapæ, 3i; scammon., ʒi; hydrarg. subchlor., gr. xii. Misce, et in pulv. xii divide quorum capiat i vel ij ut necesse sit ad sedes.

WRITTEN WORK.

Time allowed, two hours.

(1) Write out fully in Latin, using words instead of signs for the quantities, the following:—

R Ext. coloc. co. 3i. Hyd. subchl. gr. xii. Ft. mas. in pil. xii divid.

Cap. sum. mane iii et post ii si alvus hor. vi, non sat. dejec.

(2) Write the quantities of iodide of potass.—arsenic—perchloride of mercury—chloroform and chiretta contained in each dose of the following mixture:—R Pot. iodid. 3i; liq. arsenical 5iſ; liq. hyd. perch. ʒiſ; spt. chlor. ʒiv; inf. chirettæ ad. ʒviii; M. ʒiſ ter die.

(3) What is an emulsion? Name five emulsifying agents, and state with what substances each should be employed.

(4) Give the doses of, and antidotes to, atropia, ol. crotonis, tint. canthar des, opium, tr. aconiti.

(5) With what are the following incompatible?—Argent nit.; ext. hæmatoxyli; pot. iodid.; liq. strychniæ; potass. permangan.

(6) What excipients should be used—

(1) For vegetable powders containing fibrous and mucilaginous matters?

(2) For vegetable powders deficient in the above characteristics?

- (3) For giving firmness to hygroscopic extracts?
- (4) To aid the blending of oils or resins in the presence of sulphate of iron, or other matter incompatible with alkalies?
- (5) For chemicals liable to be changed by contact with organic matter?
- (7) (1) In dispensing 5*i* of (for example) magnes. sulph., how many grains would you use?
- (2) In making a preparation of the pharmacopœia, how many grains would you reckon to the ounce?
- (3) Reduce 2·78 litres to their B.P. equivalent in pints, ounces, and minimis.
- (4) Express in pounds, ounces, and grains the weight of a litre of spirit, S.G. ·828.
- (5) Reduce to grammes 1000 grain measures of sulphuric acid, S.G. 1-843.

N.B.—In cases where decimals are employed, work and answer to the second decimal place will be sufficient.

DIVISION III.—PRACTICAL PHARMACY.—EXAMINERS, MESSRS. BLACKETT AND BRIND.
Time allowed, two hours.

- (1) How much hyposulphite of sodium is required to indicate the presence of 5 parts of iodine?
- (2) What reaction takes place when iodine is brought into contact with hyposulphite of sodium (both being in solution)? Give equations.
- (3) Give the B.P. 1885 test as fully as you can for estimating the quality of cortex cinchonæ rubræ and opium.
- (4) Describe the processes, Leblanc's and the ammonia process, for the manufacture of carbonate of sodium (Na_2CO_3) and bicarbonate of sodium (NaHCO_3).
- (5) Give the crystalline forms of the following :— Na_2CO_3 — CaCO_3 — HgCl_2 — FeSO_4 — Na_2SO_4 — K_2SO_4 — KNO_3 — Al_2SO_4 , K_2SO_4 , $24\text{H}_2\text{O}$ — $\text{H}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{O}_7$, H_2O — $\text{H}_2\text{C}_4\text{H}_4\text{O}_6$.

Wills and Bequests.

GEORGE LEWIS, of No. 5 Collins-street, Melbourne, chemist, left to his son, Edward John, the equity of redemption of freehold property in Union-street, Windsor—the deceased's late residence—at present mortgaged to the Third National Building Society. He left to his sons, Edward John and Arthur Cooper, his share in the business now carried on in Collins-street, together with all moneys owing—share and share alike. He left to his sons Arthur Cooper and Reginald Charley—share and share alike—his ten shares in the Australasian Permanent Building Society. He left to his sons Arthur Cooper and Reginald Charley—share and share alike—the life insurance money from the Queen's and Mutual Provident Society. Real estate, £1400; personal, £1950.

DANIEL RUTTER LONG, of Hampdon-road, Prahran, formerly chemist, Bourke-street, Melbourne, appointed his son, Daniel Rutter Long, broker, and his sons-in-law John Donovan Gowan, accountant, and Alfred Edward Clarke, broker, trustees and executors. He left his wife, Helen Long, all his household effects. The wife to occupy Hampdon Villa for life. He cancelled the debts owing by the sons to him in connection with the Bourke-street business and otherwise. One thousand pounds to be invested, and the interest to be paid—share and share alike—to his son, Josiah Long, and to Edith Maud, daughter of

his son Joshua, for life. The wife to get interest or rents from his whole property. Upon her death the property to be equally divided between his sons, Henry James Long, Thomas Long, Daniel Rutter Long, William Charles Long, and his daughters Susanah Maria Neild, Elizabeth Ann Buzzard, Helen Gowan, and Caroline Clarke. Real property, £26,000; personal, £11,000.

Trade Notes.

MR. THOMAS LONGSTAFF is the successful tenderer for the supply of drugs and chemicals to the Ballarat Hospital.

WE have to record this month the transfer of the old-established pharmacy of Mr. Geo. Wragge, Collins-street east, Melbourne, to the well-known firm Messrs. H. Francis and Co., of 31 Bourke-street. We are informed that failing health has obliged Mr. Wragge to seek rest from the active business in which he has been engaged for the last 25 years. Mr. R. P. Francis is to undertake the management of this branch of Messrs. H. Francis and Co.'s business.

WE understand that Mr. F. H. Forrest is now on his way from London to Melbourne, where it is his intention to open a branch establishment for Messrs. A. and F. Pears. Mr. Forrest will also represent several other leading English houses.

ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA TO THE SOUTH SUBURBAN PRICE LIST.

THE following is published by request:—

Page 4, Liniments (Dispensing), 2 oz., 2s.	Ess. Odorat, 2s. oz.
Allen and Hanbury's Jujubes, 9d., 1s. 6d.	„ Zingil, 1s. oz.
Amygal Dulc. Barbary, 6d. oz.	Fairchild's Peptonising Powder, 3s. 6d.
Antiseptic Gauze, 10d. 1 yd. by 6 yds.	Fin's Ointment, 2s. 6d.
Ayer's Ague Cure, 5s.	Gossypium, 6d. oz. Wadding, 9d sheet.
„ Pectoral, 5s.	Hamburg Tea, 1s. 3d.
„ Vigor, 4s. 6d.	Hostetter's Bitters, 6s. 6d.
„ Sarsa., 5s.	Hart's Asthma Cure, 4s.
Breast Exhausters—Mather's Alex., 2s.	Hyd. Iod. Rub., 6d dr. Vets, 2s. oz.
„ „ „ Improved, 2s.	Impermeable Piline, 3s. sq. foot.
„ „ „ Maw's regist. for self	Jewsbury and Brown's Tooth Paste, 2s.
use, 2s.	Johnson's Syr. Hypophos, 2s., 3s. 6d., 6s.
„ „ Phoenix, 2s.	Jacob's Oil, 3s.
„ „ Powell's, 3s.	Law's Cough Balsam, 2s. 6d.
„ Pipes, bent or straight, 1s. 6d.	Liq. Opii. Sed. (Bal.), 9 dram Dispensing.
„ Pumps, Glass Syringe, 2s. 6d.	Lung Protectors, No. 6, 9s. 6d.
„ Maw's Brass, 17s. 6d.	Manna Cakes, 1s. 6d.
„ Relievers, I.R. red, 2 oz., 3s.	Mineral Waters, Victoria Bitters, pints, 2s.;
„ „ „ 3 oz., 3s. 6d.	quarts, 2s. 6d.
„ „ „ green, 2 oz., 4s.	Mason's Ac. Carbolic, 1s. 6d.
„ „ „ 4 oz., 5s.	Montserrat Lime Juice, pints, 2s.; quarts, 3s.
„ „ Phoenix, 3s.	6d.
„ „ white, 3 oz., 3s. 6d.	Ol. Anisi, 6d. dram.
„ „ „ 4 oz., 4s. 6d.	„ Juniper Ang., 9d. dram.
Bishop's Lithia Cit., 2 oz., 2s.; 4 oz., 3s.	„ Origan, 3d. dram, 1s. oz.
Bristol's Sarsa., 6s. 6d.	Oxley's Ginger, 3s. 9d.
Carnick's Cl. Ol. and Milk, 7s.	Osborne's Golden Drops, 1s. 6d.
Condensed Milk, Anglo-Swiss, 9d.	Rad. Serpent, 6d oz.
Elastic Anklets, 7s. each; 13s. pair.	Reuter's Life Syrup, 5s.
„ Knee Caps, 7s. each; 13s. pair.	Row's Embrocation, 4s.
Ess. Amygal, 1s. oz.	Sanitary Towels, 3s. doz. pkt.
„ Bergam., 2s. oz.	Sem. Lini., 6d. lb. Conties. c. Ol., 6d. lb.
„ Limonis Spt., 1s. oz.	Tamar Ind., Bottles 3s. 6d.
„ Palegii, 1s. oz.	Terel Venice, 3d. oz.
„ Anisi, 1s. oz.	Thompson's Cement, 1s. 3d.
„ Menth. Pip., 1s. oz.	Tickheal, 3s. 6d.
„ Anethi, 1s. oz.	Warner's Safe Cure, 5s.
„ Carui, 1s. oz.	„ Diabetes, 5s.
„ Mosch, 2s. oz.	„ Pills, 1s. 3d.
„ Rosa, 2s. oz.	Well's Buchupalia, 5s. 6d.

Personalities.

WE hear of a number of pharmacists from other colonies who propose visiting Victoria during the racing carnival.

MR. ALEXANDER SUTHERLAND, M.A., delivered a lecture on the 3rd October, at the Young Men's Christian Association Rooms, on the subject of "Patent Medicines."

THERE is a considerable dearth of really good assistants at present in Melbourne, and several vacancies remain unfilled. A few reliable men would readily find employment.

MR. WILLIAM BOWEN, the president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, who has been absent on a visit to Europe during the last eight months, is expected to return to Victoria about the 17th November next.

MR. GRAVES AICKIN, the president of the Pharmacy Board of New Zealand, writing from Auckland under date 27th September, says—"I need hardly tell you that it is a matter of keen regret to me that I could not attend the Conference. I have given up public life for the present." All who know Mr. Aickin will regret his absence from so important a gathering.

MR. R. J. WOOD, a recent arrival, who has had great experience in England in coaching for public examinations, in preparing students for matriculation and the preliminaries to the Pharmaceutical Society and the medical profession, is open to undertake similar work in Melbourne. Letters may be addressed to Mr. Wood, 17 Franklin-street, Melbourne.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

ANDERSON.—On the 10th September, at Eblema, Footscray, the wife of Dr. James Anderson of a daughter.

PEDDINGTON.—On the 15th September, the wife of W. T. Peddington, Faraday-street, Carlton, of a daughter.

SAY.—On the 18th September, at Benalla, the wife of Victor Say, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

SLATTERY—MALYON.—On the 26th August, at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat, by the Very Rev. Dean Hoyne, John James Slattery, manager Colonial Bank, Castlemaine, to Eugenie Hortense, second daughter of William Henry Malyon, Esq., Sturt-street, Ballarat.

BICKFORD—WOOD.—On the 22nd September, at Edmeston, Northcote, by the bridegroom's cousin (the Rev. E. S. Bickford), Ernest John, third eldest son of N. M. Bickford, to Alice Carter, only daughter of the late W. B. Wood, of Melbourne.

MASSON STRUTHERS.—On the 5th September, at Migvie House, Aberdeen, by the Rev. Dr. Struthers, of Prestonpans, assisted by the Rev. J. R. Mitford Mitchell, of the West Parish, Aberdeen, David Orme Masson, M.A., D.Sc., Professor of Chemistry in the University of Melbourne, son of Professor Masson, LL.D., University of Edinburgh, to Mary, second daughter of Professor Struthers, M.D., University of Aberdeen.

OWEN—JONES.—On the 28th September, at St. Peter's Church, Eastern Hill, by the Rev. Canon Handfield, Edward George, third son of John Owen, Geelong, to Annie Bishop, only daughter of the late Thomas Rice Jones, Melbourne.

GIBBINS—MUMMERY.—On the 6th October, at the residence of the bride's father, by the Rev. Mr. Brown, Mr. C. Gibbins, of Sydney, younger son of Mr. George Gibbins, of Cubit-street, Richmond, to Jane, eldest daughter of J. B. Mummary, chemist, Madeline-street, Carlton.

DEATH.

BROWN.—On the 27th September, at her residence, 5 Peel-street, Windsor, Elsie Mary, the beloved wife of J. T. J. Brown, chemist, 130 Russell-street, Melbourne, aged 29 years.

CRYSTAL·PALACE·BOND'S·GOLD·MEDAL·MARKING·INK.
PREPARED BY THE DAUGHTER OF THE LATE JOHN BOND

THE AUSTRALASIAN Journal of Pharmacy.

No. 11.]

NOVEMBER, 1886.

[VOL. I.

THE INTERCOLONIAL PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

FIRST DAY.—WEDNESDAY, 27TH OCTOBER.

THE delegates appointed to attend the first Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference assembled at the Pharmaceutical Society's Hall, Swanston-street, Melbourne, at 10 o'clock on Wednesday, the 27th of October, the respective colonies being represented as follows:—

New South Wales ...	Messrs. J. Mayne, T. B. Melhuish, and B. F. Bozon.
New Zealand ...	„ J. A. Pond and G. Bonnington.
Queensland ...	Mr. H. W. Potts.
South Australia ...	Messrs. L. R. Scammell and W. H. Sowter.
Tasmania ...	„ L. Fairthorne and E. R. Ash.
Victoria ...	„ C. R. Blackett and Thomas Huntsman.

The proceedings were opened by Mr. Blackett, who, on behalf of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, read the following

ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

Honoured and Esteemed Colleagues,—On behalf of the Pharmacy Board and Pharmaceutical Society and the pharmacists of this colony, I tender you the heartiest and warmest welcome on the occasion of the meeting of this the first Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference.

Personally unknown as most of us are to each other, we are all animated by the same desire for the advancement and welfare of pharmacy.

As at the present time all the colonies, with the exception of South Australia, have obtained legislation to regulate the practice of our art and the sale of poisons, it is admitted generally that some discussion should take place with reference to the future, in order that some agreement should, if possible, be arrived at as to the bases of further legislation in the respective colonies, so that, if attainable, the same laws and regulations affecting pharmacy and the education of pharmacists may prevail throughout this rapidly developing continent, thus assisting to bring about a good and cordial understanding among us, living—as we rejoice to know—under the same Crown and enjoying the same privileges as members of the British Empire; that the artificial barriers which legislators have, unfortunately, established between the various colonies shall not, as far as pharmacy is concerned, obtain, but that in the future an Australian pharmacist in all the colonies will enjoy the same system of education, live under the same or similar legal sanctions and encouragement from the State.

It is a subject of great satisfaction to me that I should have the honour of being called upon to greet you, the representatives of Australian pharmacy, and to express my sincere pleasure at the very general response to the Conference invitation and the sympathy expressed with our objects, by not the societies only, but by those who are not able to be present.

This meeting, it is hoped, will be only the beginning of similar ones. We shall thus be brought into closer fraternal relations, and help to lay the foundations strong and enduring of future pharmaceutical progress.

I trust that our deliberations will be characterised by wisdom and an earnest, broad, and liberal spirit, and result in valuable suggestions for the further development of our art.

Such is our desire, and we extend to you, gentlemen, the trusted delegates of your various organisations, the hand of fellowship and a right hearty welcome.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Mr. H. Shillinglaw read the following report of the Executive Committee:—

In the month of September, 1885, the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society unanimously resolved, on the motion of Mr. H. T. Tompsitt, that an Inter-colonial Pharmaceutical Conference should be invited to assemble in Melbourne on the 27th, 28th, and 29th of October, 1886.

A committee, consisting of the following gentlemen, was appointed to prepare the programme of the subjects to be submitted for discussion:—Messrs. Huntsman, Tompsitt, Brinsmead, and Harrison, from the Pharmaceutical Society; and Messrs. Blackett, Brind, and H. Francis, from the Pharmacy Board.

The committee have now the honour to lay before the assembled delegates a report of their proceedings.

In the month of April, 1886, a preliminary circular was addressed to the presidents and members of the Councils of the Pharmaceutical Societies or Pharmacy Boards in the Australian colonies and New Zealand, and where no organisation existed, to leading pharmacists. At the expiration of the time mentioned in the preliminary circular it was found that replies had not been received from New South Wales and New Zealand, and the time for receiving replies was therefore extended to the 31st July, 1886.

At the meeting of the Council held on the 13th August, a final report was submitted by the Committee, in which it was stated that delegates from the following colonies were appointed:—Messrs. Mayne and Melhuish for New South Wales, Messrs. Pond and Bonnington for New Zealand, Mr. H. W. Potts for Queensland, Messrs. Scammell and Sowter for South Australia, Messrs. Fairthorne and Ash for Tasmania, Messrs. Blackett and Huntsman for Victoria.

From the colonies which were unable to be represented it is a source of satisfaction for the Committee to report that the most cordial wishes for the success of the Conference were expressed by the members.

THE PRESIDENT.

On the motion of Mr. Pond, seconded by Mr. Bozon, Mr. L. Fairthorne was unanimously elected president.

THE SECRETARY.

On the motion of Mr. Scammell, seconded by Mr. Melhuish, Mr. H. Shillinglaw was unanimously elected honorary secretary.

LIMITATION OF VOTES.

In consequence of New South Wales having three representatives, it was agreed, on the motion of Mr. Pond, that each colony be limited to two votes.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

The following business was set down for the first day:—

First Resolution—That a uniform system of education throughout Australasia is desirable, such system to embrace:—

- (A) Preliminary examination, to include the same subjects as required by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.
- (B) Apprenticeship of four years.
- (C) Course of study, based upon the course adopted by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.
- (D) Examinations to be conducted by examiners appointed by boards, councils, or governing body.
 - 1. The mode of conducting examinations to be both written and oral in every subject.
 - 2. The subjects of examinations to embrace:—

Botany	}	To be conducted, as far as practicable, in conformity with the practice in Great Britain.
Materia medica		As conducted in Victoria.
Chemistry and practical chemistry		
- Practical pharmacy - - -

THE SYSTEM OF EDUCATION.

Mr. Blackett moved the first resolution. He said he recognised the honour of bringing before the first Conference so important a resolution. It did not require a long speech to impress the delegates with its importance, because it was generally known that the future of pharmacy in Australasia depended very much upon the lines adopted for a uniform system of education, and it would be the means of surmounting every difficulty that now stood in the way. They wanted to feel that, from whatever part of Australasia a pharmacist came, he would be received in a spirit of brotherhood, so to speak, belonging to a large influential body united in every possible respect. In going over the curriculum and examination papers he found that all the colonies were following as closely as they could on the lines of the parent country. In Victoria the examination was practically the same as that of Great Britain. By an order of the Governor-in-Council they had now the power of adding Virgil's *Aeneid*, which was in the examination of Great Britain. Candidates were not expected to be great linguists, but still it was the general desire that the pharmacist of the future should be a man of culture, with a liberal education, fitted to enter the ranks of a highly important and scientific calling. He would like to see the matriculation examination made a *sine qua non*.

Mr. Potts seconded the motion, which was carried *nem. con.*

Mr. Blackett then moved clause—

- (A) "Preliminary examination, to include the same subjects as required by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain."

Mr. Mayne seconded.

Mr. Pond moved as an amendment, and Mr. Potts seconded—

"That a preliminary examination, to include the same subjects as required by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, be passed prior to apprenticeship, but if the candidate produces and lodges with the registrar a certificate that he has, at the matriculation examination by some university, college, or school recognised by the Board, passed in the above or corresponding subjects, he shall not be required to pass this examination."

Mr. Blackett said he accepted the amendment because it was formulating what had already been attained in Victoria. The important point was examination prior to apprenticeship, similar to the medical and legal professions.

Mr. Melhuish thought a ground work, in the shape of such an examination, an absolute necessity.

Mr. Sowter pointed out that in the absence of an Act of Parliament in South Australia the examination could not be made compulsory.

Mr. Ash intimated that the same difficulty applied to Tasmania.

Mr. Blackett felt certain that the Legislatures of the various colonies would unhesitatingly pass the desired Acts when the unanimity of the Conference was made known. The difficulty might easily be overcome by a refusal to apprentice other than those who had passed such an examination.

The amendment became the motion, and was carried unanimously.

THE APPRENTICESHIP.

Mr. Blackett then moved the adoption of the second subsidiary clause—
(B) "Apprenticeship for four years."

In Victoria the term was four years, which was quite short enough. In Queensland it was three years. In England no apprenticeship was required, but it had to be shown, before a candidate could go up for examination, that he had served three years in learning the art of dispensing, and the general technical work connected with practical pharmacy. In France it was only three years, but the training was very severe there, apprenticeship being followed by three years in a college of pharmacy, and it was fully eight or nine years before a man could really become a *pharmacien première*. The greatest and most illustrious names known in connection with pharmacy were men schooled in France. The French system was a splendid one. It made a man a perfect pharmacist, ranking as a doctor of medicine. Their object should be to keep up this ideal standard.

Mr. Melhuish seconded the motion, adding that the term of four years had been provided for in the New South Wales Bill of Incorporation Act.

Mr. Pond said that, although he agreed with the motion, he failed to see how it was going to take effect in New Zealand, where the Masters and Apprentices Act released apprentices at the age of 19 years, except in cases where premiums over £30 had been paid. He quoted from the Act 165, section 9:—"Any householder, tradesman, farmer, or other person exercising any trade or manual class may take by indenture in writing any apprentice above the age of 12 years to be instructed in such trade, art, and occupation for a term which shall expire when such apprentice shall attain the age of 19 years." He therefore moved as an amendment—"That an apprenticeship of three years be served in an open shop for the compounding and dispensing of medicines." It would act as a certain safeguard for the various Boards.

Mr. Potts seconded this amendment, not because he was in favour of it, but on account of Queensland having an Act with three years' apprenticeship. In a scattered country like Queensland shops were at enormous distances from the head centre. Brisbane had a College of Pharmacy, but boys serving apprenticeship in the inland towns had no means of acquiring a proper knowledge of the business. Three years was ample for the towns he alluded to, after which candidates should be compelled to attend the College at Brisbane for 12 months. Other colonies, doubtless, were placed in a similar position.

Mr. Mayne intimated that New South Wales would be happy to recognise the term of three years, as far as Queensland was concerned, although they were adopting four years.

Mr. Pond—The four years' term would shut Queensland out.

Mr. Blackett—By altering it to three years they would shut out Victoria. It resolved itself into the question whether it would not be better for Queensland

and New Zealand to get their Acts amended. The great advantages to be gained would be to a certain extent lost if the terms of apprenticeship were not the same. Surely there would be little or no difficulty for the colonies named to have a fourth year added. If the term of apprenticeship were made short they would find that boys who entered at the age of fifteen would not be capable of getting the necessary knowledge and experience, because their minds were not matured at the age of 18. It was only in the final year that a student obtained anything like a mastery over the simplest details of pharmacy. If, on the other hand, the term was four years, the student would be 19 years of age, and his twentieth year could be spent in college. Since the age for examination was fixed at 21 there would be a further opportunity of attending college, and it would be to the benefit of the candidates, for no one could be reckoned an accomplished pharmacist with only one year's training. He trusted the term proposed would be strictly adhered to.

Mr. Potts said it was optional in Queensland whether a student spent his final twelve months in study or as an assistant. In this respect they differed from Victoria.

Mr. Sowter said that South Australia was labouring under difficulties similar to Queensland in regard to its scattered population.

Mr. Melhuish contended that the Conference should study the majority, and not the minority.

Mr. Pond, in withdrawing his amendment, trusted that the difficulties to be met with by some of the colonies would not be allowed to press too heavily on them. A certain amount of flexibility should be permitted.

Mr. Potts informed the president that he could not vote on the question. His instructions were in the direction of the shorter term, notwithstanding that the Board of Pharmacy in Queensland favoured the longer term. They were hampered by the Legislature, which he hoped would alter the term as desired.

The resolution was then put and carried.

COURSE OF STUDY.

Mr. Blackett then moved clause—

(c) "Course of study based upon the course adopted by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain."

In doing so, he remarked that it required no enlargement, for it was well known to the delegates. A little amplification, however, might help them.

Mr. Pond—May I ask if it necessitates any special course of study?

Mr. Blackett said there was no compulsory curriculum in England, but the leading pharmaceutical opinion was in accord with Professor Huxley and others on the question of education. He would not support anything that would encourage a system of cramming, and for that reason he looked anxiously for a compulsory college attendance of three years, giving students a proper scientific training. They would like to be ahead of England in this matter. Her legislators were unfortunately occupied with the Russian Bear and the Egyptian Questions, which hindered practical legislation, but in Australia they were free from such troubles, and within easy reach of legislation. Great Britain would doubtless be glad of a compulsory curriculum, and, for his own part, he longed to see the day when their certificates would be exchangeable with the parent country, and likewise with France and Germany. Adverting to the course of study, he introduced the name of Michael Faraday to illustrate the knowledge that could be gained in the laboratory. Books could not supply that teaching. The English system served to encourage the "coach" too much at examinations, and the coaching system was reaching that stage now that a man could be posted up in

almost the very questions on the examination paper. Candidates could thus get through without having a sound knowledge of their business. He urged upon the delegates the wisdom of adopting the course of study proposed, and making a compulsory curriculum a *sine qua non*.

Mr. Bozon—That is the desire of New South Wales.

Mr. Melhuish said he fully sympathised with Mr. Blackett's remarks as to the three years' term, although he did not think they were far enough advanced to carry it out. Something in respect of a curriculum was very desirable. In France the curriculum was very severe, and what with examinations, a candidate was not considered accomplished till he reached the age of twenty-five.

Mr. Potts entirely approved of the idea, but he could not help feeling that some of the colonies were not so fortunate as Victoria with its paternal Government. He suggested six months.

Mr. Blackett thought such a period ridiculous, and he would never advise any young man to be satisfied with it. It was not sufficient to enable one to pass any examination.

Mr. Potts—What is the course?

Mr. Blackett—It is based upon that of Great Britain, including botany, chemistry, practical pharmacy, etc.

Mr. Sowter personally agreed with all Mr. Blackett had said, but was forced to vote against the resolution, as it was not thought desirable in South Australia to make it compulsory. South Australia, it must be remembered, was a very large and scattered colony.

Mr. Pond added that New Zealand was divided geographically even more than any of the other colonies. The examinations were held in four places simultaneously between the South and North. If they decided upon any one college, New Zealand would be shut out. There was no time stated when the course should take effect. If it was meant to be a course at any one college, the intentions of the Conference would be virtually undermined.

Mr. Blackett—There might be a School of Pharmacy anywhere there, so long as there was a recognised teacher. It did not require professors, fine buildings, etc. The difficulties appeared to him to have been very much overrated. He asked the careful consideration of the delegates before voting.

Mr. Pond—in the event of any of our students coming up for examination, would you ostracise them if we had no recognised college?

Mr. Huntsman reminded Mr. Pond that it was only necessary to inaugurate schools at the four principal places, and to obtain lecturers to give candidates the desired instruction. It was not necessary to have any central place. Schools were established at Ballarat and Sandhurst, in Victoria.

The President said it was very desirable that there should be some agreed course of study. The difficulties apparent would eventually be overcome.

In reply to Mr. Ash, Mr. Blackett said the course of study would come into force as soon as the respective Legislatures passed Pharmacy Acts in conformity with the resolutions.

The motion, which was seconded by Mr. Mayne, was then put and carried.

THE EXAMINERS.

Mr. Blackett went on with clause—

(D) "Examinations to be conducted by examiners appointed by Boards, Councils, or Governing Body."

The examiners, he said, would have to be properly appointed, and he thought the resolution would meet the matter. It should be a rule that no examiner be

appointed for more than twelve months. It would be a good check, and would tend to keep men up to the mark. If they appointed a man for life there was a danger of his becoming somnolent, for it was only human nature after all.

Mr. Potts seconded.

Mr. Mayne urged that the resolution should be allowed to pass as printed. He would make an amendment if necessary.

Mr. Blackett thereupon withdrew his suggestion, and the motion passed *nem. con.*

CONDUCTING EXAMINATIONS.

Mr. Blackett moved, and Mr. Huntsman seconded—

“That the mode of conducting examinations be both written and oral in every subject.”

A mere oral examination, he said, was not a proper test, and this had been proved particularly in England. There was a great advantage in having written papers, even for purposes of reference. In a *viva voce* manner they could often prove the depths of a man's ignorance or the profundity of his knowledge. He once asked a candidate for a definition of steam, and received the reply that it was “something like smoke, but thicker.” When a candidate answered like that it was evident that his knowledge of elementary chemistry was exceedingly limited. The same candidate's written examination was not so bad, and his answers were accurate enough to obtain him a percentage of marks. The oral examination, however, completely “stumped” him.

Mr. Mayne moved an amendment—

“That the examinations be written or oral at the discretion of the various boards and councils.”

Mr. Pond, in seconding the amendment, remarked that New Zealand exceeded Victoria in respect of the estimation by the results of the candidate's work. In New Zealand they required 70 per cent. to pass, whilst it was only 50 in Victoria. Written papers were of very great value, and doubtless if the student to whom Mr. Blackett had referred had been given just a little time for reflection, the answer would have been much more satisfactory. The results of the examinations held throughout New Zealand came before one examiner at the head centre, who finally dealt with them. The question of examinations being written or oral should be left optional with the various boards.

Mr. Potts said the question was one requiring particular unanimity, otherwise there would be a doubt as to which examination was recognised throughout the colonies.

Mr. Blackett, replying to Mr. Pond, said it was absolutely necessary to have oral as well as written examinations. How could they have a written examination with the microscope? It was necessary that the skill of the students should be closely watched in handling the instrument. And the same applied to volumetric analysis. A candidate might pass his examination on paper, but it was very desirable that he should exhibit his knowledge and skill by practical tests. Coaching again came up in this matter. Many students could answer correctly on paper, and it was to defeat the wiles of the examinee that he urged the oral examination. The dual system certainly offered the best security. They did not want a hard and fast groove so long as the one end was attained—viz., the standard of efficiency. (Hear, hear.)

After a friendly conversational discussion Mr. Blackett withdrew the motion in favour of the following, moved by Mr. Mayne, and seconded by Mr. Pond :—

“The mode of conducting examinations to be written and oral in every subject, the oral to be at the discretion of the various boards and societies.”

This met with general approval, and was carried.

AGE OF CANDIDATES.

On the motion of Mr. Melhuish, seconded by Mr. Blackett, the following was carried:—

"That all candidates for the qualifying examination shall have reached the full age of twenty-one (21) years."

SUBJECTS OF EXAMINATION.

Mr. Blackett moved section 2 as under:—

"The subjects of examination to embrace botany, *materia medica*, chemistry, and practical chemistry; to be conducted, as far as practicable, in conformity with the practice in Great Britain, and practical pharmacy as conducted in Victoria."

There could be but one opinion on the subjects for examination, and the only question for discussion was the necessity of examination in the first three subjects as conducted in Great Britain, and the last-named as conducted in Victoria. The passing in these subjects would mean the creation of a feeling of greater confidence in both the pharmacist and the public. In connection with Practical Pharmacy they had three divisions in Victoria. Candidates had to go before the Board, which divided itself into three sub-committees. The first division dealt with the dispensing, and the candidates were required to read prescriptions from Latin in all kinds of handwriting—a collection being kept for the purpose—of English and foreign medical men. They had to dispense medicine in the presence of the examiners, and were also examined in the strength of solutions and poisons and their antidotes. It also included a test in the doses of medicines, weights, measures, etc. In the next division candidates were called upon to identify various drugs, tinctures, etc., and to give component parts and principles and method of manufacture. The third sub-division was devoted to a test in pure and impure drugs. In each division 50 marks were required to pass. The system he considered an admirable one, and any student who passed could be relied upon. Unlike Dickens' character, the candidate would be able to distinguish oxalic acid from Epsom salts.

The motion was subsequently altered to read—"That the examination in Practical Pharmacy be conducted as in Victoria, as far as practicable, each candidate to obtain not less than 50 per cent. in dispensing."

This was seconded by Mr. Bozon, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Potts said that, before leaving the chamber, he desired, on behalf of the delegates, to acknowledge the great amount of interest taken in the Conference proceedings by Mr. Blackett, and the very warm welcome he gave the delegates from the other colonies, and would accordingly move that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to him. This was seconded by Mr. Bozon, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Blackett briefly returned thanks for the acknowledgment of his efforts, adding that the greater amount of credit was due to the zeal and energy of Mr. H. Shillinglaw, to whom its success was entirely owing.

There being no other business on the first day's notice paper, the Conference adjourned.

SECOND DAY.—THURSDAY, 28TH OCTOBER.

ALL the delegates were present; Mr. Fairthorne presiding.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

Second Resolution—"The desirability of uniformity in Australasian Pharmaceutical Legislation."

Third Resolution—"Uniformity in the Laws relating to the Sale and Use of Poisons and the Regulations for their custody."

UNIFORMITY IN LEGISLATION.

Mr. Huntsman moved resolution 2:—

"The desirability of uniformity in Australasian pharmaceutical legislation."

The resolution, he said, was a very simple proposition, and one which would doubtless meet with approval; but he would take the opportunity of briefly reviewing the past pharmaceutical legislation in the various colonies, and the constitution and duties of the respective governing bodies. Beginning with Tasmania, which was the first colony to obtain an Act, in 1842, it had a Board of Medical Examiners, but not a Pharmacy Board. Then followed New South Wales, Victoria, New Zealand, and Queensland, which had Pharmacy Boards, composed in each case of seven members. In all of these colonies the first boards had been appointed by the Governor-in-Council, the subsequent boards being elected by the pharmaceutical chemists. Queensland admitted medical men to its first board, and in Tasmania the board was entirely composed of medical practitioners, the term of office being for two years. In New Zealand and Victoria no person was eligible for election as a member of the board unless he were a pharmaceutical chemist. In Victoria, New Zealand, and Queensland the term of office was for three years.

Mr. Potts—No; Queensland one year. The first board only lasts twelve months, and an election takes place every three years.

Mr. Huntsman continued—In Victoria two members retired annually, and the first two to retire were those with the lowest number of votes, and so on until all retired in turn. To get matters into proper working order three years was made the original term, but it was altered to allow two members to retire annually. The Boards possessed considerable powers, and could examine any person on oath or take a declaration. In some colonies it appeared there was a little variation in the nomenclature, some calling themselves chemists and druggists and others pharmaceutical chemists. The principal object of the power to inflict penalties was, of course, to prevent unfit persons from obtaining admission to the body as pharmaceutical chemists. For making a false declaration or attempting to use a forged diploma in Victoria a person was guilty of a misdemeanour and liable to one year's imprisonment. In Queensland the maximum was fixed at three years; New Zealand, £20 fine, in default twelve months' imprisonment. (The speaker here asked to be excused for any little inaccuracies that might creep into his speech, as it was difficult to thoroughly understand the Acts by simply glancing them over.) The next penalty was in connection with breaches of the Act. Clause 25 provided against the practice of medicine or surgery, except in accordance with the rights and privileges enjoyed by chemists, the penalty being a £10 fine, or the alternative of twelve months' imprisonment. This clause was not contained in the Acts of the other colonies. It seemed to him that the Legislature in New South Wales wanted to act unfairly towards chemists.

Mr. Mayne—In what way do you mean?

Mr. Huntsman—In limiting them merely to dispensing.

Mr. Mayne—It has been amended.

Mr. Huntsman excused himself, not having read through the whole Act.

Mr. Shillinglaw interjected anent "rights and privileges"—which was being discussed conversationally—that the question had been decided in Victoria several times.

Mr. Mayne—And a chemist keeping open shop is allowed to prescribe?

Mr. Shillinglaw—Yes, as far as simple remedies are concerned.

Mr. Potts remarked that, according to the Queensland Act, any person not duly registered as a pharmaceutical chemist using or exhibiting any title, term, or sign which might be construed to mean that he was qualified to perform

the duties of a pharmaceutical chemist was liable to a penalty of £20, or, in default, to six months' imprisonment.

Mr. Shillinglaw—In Victoria both fine and imprisonment can be imposed. There is a case in point from Sandhurst.

Mr. Pond quoted from the New Zealand Act, Clause 25, as follows:—"From and after the passing of this Act it shall not be lawful for any person not duly registered as a pharmaceutical chemist, according to the provisions of this Act, assuming or using the title of pharmaceutical chemist, pharmaceutist, chemist and druggist, dispensing chemist, or other words of similar import, in any part of New Zealand, or assuming or exhibiting any name, title, or sign implying that he is registered under this Act, or that he is a member of the said society; and if any person, not being duly registered under this Act, shall assume or use the title of pharmaceutical chemist . . . shall be liable to a penalty of five pounds." It was tantamount to a penalty of £5 a day, i.e., every offence, and it was very severe punishment.

Mr. Huntsman said that in the Amended Act for New Zealand there was a clause which it was very desirable to have introduced into the Acts of the various colonies. It was briefly, "That every open shop must be under the management of a registered pharmaceutical chemist." Many chemists had branch shops, and it was easy for them to get unqualified men and place them in charge at a small salary. The clause would have the effect of protecting the public, and offering a fair chance to the rising pharmacist.

Mr. Pond—There is not much chance of the amendment coming on this session.

Mr. Huntsman urged its insertion into the Victorian Act. It was a point bearing on the £ s. d. In the Tasmanian Act there was a clause of very similar purport providing for the imposition of a fine of £50 for vending medicines or drugs without having obtained a license from Parliament or two members of the Court. Another clause in the same Act was also worth their attention, viz.:—"No person . . . shall incur any penalty by selling medicines or drugs at any place distant more than two miles from place of business of any person who has a license to vend medicines, provided such medicines or drugs shall be sold in unopened packages made up by and bearing the label of some person who has obtained such license, but not otherwise." That clause was worth passing around the table, and it spoke for itself. According to Clause 9 of the Victorian Act, 'the Board may make, alter, or rescind regulations for the purpose of carrying this Act into effect. Such regulations shall have been confirmed by the Governor-in-Council, and published in the *Government Gazette*.' He failed to see anything in the New Zealand Act to that effect.

Mr. Pond said, unfortunately, there was too much. There was a difficulty connected with Section 11. New Zealand was the most scattered of the colonies. There was nothing in the clause to guide them in the calling of "the special meeting," and in consequence of this the matter had been placed in the hands of their solicitors, who were unable to help them. It was then thought wise to abandon the idea of holding a meeting. He was subsequently informed that it would have been better to have gone on with it. Several members of Parliament had expressed a willingness to bring it forward, and there was no doubt but they would get the necessary power of passing the regulations when it did come on.

Mr. Huntsman—That is the Amended Act?

Mr. Pond—Yes, to enable us to frame our regulations.

Mr. Huntsman—Before regulations are made the majority of the pharmaceutical chemists must be enrolled.

Mr. Pond thought it was right to appeal to the registered members, to save future trouble.

Mr. Huntsman—New Zealand, then, is the only colony seeking for such provision. Queensland had the power of making regulations. The Pharmacy Boards of the other colonies performed these functions.

Mr. Mayne—Is the qualification here legal? Is it recommended? If one is not a member of the Society here, can a certificate be granted to open a shop?

Mr. Huntsman—No.

Mr. Mayne thought it was different in New South Wales.

Mr. Huntsman—In the other colonies, as far as he knew, the Pharmacy Boards performed all the duties of admission, etc., but in Victoria the Board administered the Act, issued poisons licenses, prosecuted for infringements of the Poisons Act, and conducted the examinations. The Pharmaceutical Council represented the members of the Pharmaceutical Society. It did not necessarily imply that it represented every pharmaceutical chemist. If a registered pharmaceutical chemist did not apply for election and satisfy the requirements of the Pharmaceutical Council, he could not become a member of the Society. Apart from the possession of an absolute diploma or educational qualification, it was a *sine qua non* that the applicant should produce a sworn declaration of apprenticeship to a chemist and druggist before election. Every chemist was not a member of the Pharmaceutical Society, but every member of the Society was a trained chemist. The Society took charge of the students. Anyone having the certificate of the Pharmacy Board could practice in Victoria without being a member of the Society. But this did not give any of the privileges that attached to the Society.

Mr. Melhuish—I suppose you have a great number in business in Victoria who are not members of the Society?

Mr. Huntsman replied in the affirmative, adding that there was no doubt they would be members of the Society if they could conscientiously make a declaration of apprenticeship.

Mr. Potts—Can you explain why it is that the Pharmacy Board can register anybody who has been six months in business prior to the Act of 1876 becoming law? I know a registered pharmaceutical chemist here who does not know calomel from sugar. (Laughter.)

Mr. Shillinglaw read Clause 2 of the Victorian Act, as follows:—“Chemists and druggists within the meaning of this Act shall consist of all persons who at any time before the passing of this Act have carried on the business of a chemist and druggist, in the keeping of open shop for the compounding of the prescriptions of duly qualified medical practitioners. . . .” But any person may become resident, and, if furnished with the necessary declaration, be registered.

Mr. Bozon—There is no specified time for being registered?

Mr. Shillinglaw—No.

Mr. Mayne—if I were to become a member of the Pharmaceutical Society here, and bought a business, could I carry it on?

Mr. Huntsman—No.

Mr. Potts—in South Australia you can. The Society was the legal body there; the Board the legal body here.

Mr. Blackett—in Victoria the Pharmaceutical Society had no legal sanction beyond voluntary association, and had no legislative power whatever. It could not grant, refuse, or rescind certificates. The College of Pharmacy was under the auspices of the society, and the Board had the power of recognising the college or not, as it thought fit. He wished to impress upon the delegates from

the other colonies that the Pharmaceutical Society, as such, had nothing to do with what those present were then doing.

Mr. Huntsman said the pharmaceutical council, besides taking charge of the students and their studies, appointed lecturers, received the fees, and awarded prizes. The recognition of the College of Pharmacy as an institution in which lectures were delivered depended upon the approval of the Board of Pharmacy. The building in which they were at that moment was the property of the Pharmaceutical Council, but the land was vested in the Pharmacy Board and Council conjointly, for educational purposes. There was not an absolute fee simple, but as long as it was applied to the proper purposes they could keep it. The next point was the educational requirements of the different Boards. In Queensland there was no preliminary education required. It was a term of three years' apprenticeship.

Mr. Potts corrected the speaker, and drew his attention to Clause 38—“Persons desirous of becoming apprentices to pharmaceutical chemists must, before entering with their indentures, pass a preliminary examination before the Board, or before some person appointed by it in that behalf, in the following subjects.”

Mr. Huntsman believed it did not prescribe any educational course.

Mr. Potts—The regulations do.

Mr. Huntsman—Well, there is no compulsory curriculum. In New Zealand there was no preliminary examination, no apprenticeship, and no examination in practical pharmacy.

Mr. Pond—But there is an examination in practical chemistry and pharmacy and general chemistry. Clause 20 provided for it—“ . . . Board shall have full power . . . to examine persons . . . in Latin, botany, materia medica, pharmaceutical and general chemistry, and other subjects. . . .”

Mr. Huntsman said he was pleased to see that in New South Wales a preliminary examination preceded indentures and registration. That was effective since last June. An apprenticeship of four years in any of the colonies, in addition to the examination, would entitle a candidate to present himself in Victoria for examination. If the standard of the other colonies were made the same as that in Victoria, he had no doubt they would be admitted.

Mr. Pond—The resolution we passed yesterday accepts the matriculation examination of any University in the colonies.

Mr. Huntsman—And apprenticeship in the other colonies entitles candidates to come up for examination in Victoria.

Mr. Shillinglaw—Providing they pass a Preliminary Examination before apprenticeship the indentures are registered.

Mr. Huntsman, in reply to Mr. Mayne, said that the question as to what ought to be would have to be decided by the governing bodies.

Mr. Shillinglaw said the college course had been altered from ten to five months.

Mr. Huntsman—It originally ran through the whole year, but the lectures were given now at shorter intervals, enabling them to complete in one portion of the year; and, with the view of inducing apprentices to enter for the second session, and thus thoroughly qualify themselves for the duties of their profession, a considerable reduction had been made in the fees. He thought that the points of divergence he had pointed out in the legislation of the various colonies were sufficiently numerous to impress them with the necessity for uniformity, and he had now much pleasure in moving the resolution.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Melhuish, and carried unanimously.

THE PHARMACY BOARDS.

Mr. Blackett's suggestion that the clauses in the Victorian Act should form a basis for discussion met with approval, and he entered upon the task. The first question was the constitution of a Pharmacy Board; should it be composed of pharmaceutical chemists or medical men? For his own part, he thought medical men should have no more to do with Pharmacy Boards than chemists with Medical Boards. Their knowledge was not of the same character, and they could not possibly have sympathies in common with each other. If a medical man had both qualifications, of course there could be no objection, and there need be no disqualification; but it seemed to him that it should be agreed upon to exclude all but pharmacists.

Mr. Potts said that in Queensland they had two medical men registered pharmaceutical chemists of Great Britain, while the others were simply nominated by the Governor-in-Council temporarily.

Mr. Blackett moved—

"That no person shall be elected or appointed president or member of any Pharmaceutical Board of the Australasian colonies unless he be a pharmaceutical chemist."

Mr. Pond—I am afraid you will destroy any hope of reciprocity by that motion, because New South Wales and other colonies have decided to keep two medical men on the Boards.

Mr. Melhuish feared the motion could not become effective.

Mr. Mayne said it was the wish of the New South Wales Government that two medical men should sit upon their Board.

Mr. Melhuish said he would like to add the words "where practicable."

Mr. Pond supported this, and asked the President if he thought it desirable to have the motion pressed. In Tasmania it was absolutely needed that medical men should sit upon the Boards. In New South Wales the pharmacists would have seven representatives and the Government two, and the presence of the latter mattered little on the Board.

On the suggestion of Mr. Pond, Mr. Blackett withdrew the motion, and the matter dropped.

Mr. Blackett went on to Clause 2—"Interpretations of 'chemists and druggists'." He thought it advisable for the different colonies to strike out the name of each colony as Victoria had done, and moved accordingly—

"That in the interpretation clause of the various Acts of the various colonies the name of the colony be omitted."

Mr. Pond seconded this, and it was carried *nem. con.*

Mr. Shillinglaw remarked that there need be no question as regarded Section 18, Clause 3, which was to the effect "That no person shall receive from the Board a certificate that he is duly qualified for registration as a registered pharmaceutical chemist unless he shall have attained the age of 21, and hold a certificate or diploma of competency as a pharmaceutical chemist or as a chemist and druggist or homeopathic chemist from the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain or any College or Board of Pharmacy recognised by the Board under any regulations made under this Act." This was altered by the Amending Act, which provided that any person becoming domiciled in Victoria, and within Sections 1, 2, 3, could be registered.

Mr. Potts—Is it proposed that that clause should also become the law of the other colonies?

Mr. Shillinglaw—New South Wales has adopted it.

Mr. Mayne—We have always recognised your members.

Mr. Bozon—Yet you will not recognise ours. You will not register them, and that we complain of.

Mr. Blackett said they had fairly settled the question of preliminary examinations at the first day's sittings, and they really had now only to be careful that nothing clashed in the various Acts to hinder the desired interchange of certificates.

REGISTRATION.

In connection with registration, Mr. Blackett read Clause 10, Amended Act:—"The Board shall from time to time cause the names of all persons certified by the Board as duly qualified for registration. . . ." He was not aware of any definition in the New South Wales Act of the word "person," or of anything preventing a corporation carrying on business.

Mr. Bozon—Yes; in the Amendment Act.

Mr. Potts informed the Conference that under the Queensland Act, Clause 27, corporations could not represent themselves as chemists unless the business was conducted by a pharmaceutical chemist.

Mr. Blackett thought it did not go nearly far enough, and anybody might open a shop and engage a competent manager to carry it on.

Mr. Mayne quoted from the New South Wales Act the clause having reference to corporations, and the fines that could be imposed if a single person connected with it was an unqualified and not properly registered chemist.

Mr. Blackett thought nothing short of the French system would suit. There was no such thing known as the delegation of responsibility there. A man was obliged to have a qualified partner for every shop he held.

Mr. Blackett referred to the case of the Pharmaceutical Society in London *versus* The London and Provincial Supply Association, in which it was held that there was no definition of the word "person," and this gave rise to the inclusion of the word "corporation" in the Victorian Amended Act. There could be no doubts of the intentions or the meaning of the Act now.

Mr. Pond was inclined to think the other colonies should adopt the Victorian clause too.

Mr. Blackett then moved—

"That Clause 10 of the Amended Pharmacy Act of Victoria, or words of similar import, be adopted by this Conference."

Mr. Potts seconded the motion. He thought it most desirable. It was a monstrous thing that stores could dispense, and carry on the business of pharmaceutical chemists.

Mr. Mayne intimated that it would be made punishable in New South Wales when the Amended Act passed.

After some further discussion the motion was carried.

THE SALE AND USE OF POISONS.

Mr. Mayne moved the next resolution, as follows:—

"That uniformity in the Laws relating to the Sale and Use of Poisons and the Regulations for their custody is desirable, where practicable."

Mr. Pond seconded the motion, remarking at the same time that he did not think it could be put into practical effect at present.

Mr. Blackett did not like the words "desirable, where practicable." It would be far better to adopt the resolution as it appeared on the business paper or reject it *in toto*. Those qualifying terms were most weakening and destructive, and the duty of the Conference was to carry its business through in a manner which would gain them the respect of the professions. Quite recently power had been given them in Victoria to add several poisons, including carbolic acid, to Part 11 of the first schedule to the Poisons Act. A very large number

of deaths were annually caused by the handling of carbolic acid by careless and unqualified persons, and it was high time that restriction should be placed upon its sale. Then there was chloride of zinc, which was frequently left about unlabelled; barium salts, which were almost as dangerous as arsenic; and elaterin, which was very dangerous on account of its liability to be confounded with elaterium. Satisfactory results from the Conference in this direction could only be obtained by the delegates being in a position to go to their respective Legislatures, and say authoritatively, "We have gone through these poison schedules, have debated them seriously and at length, and have unanimously come to the conclusion that such and such a drug should be added to the poison schedules of our Act." This was the only way in which they could hope to induce their various Legislatures to bring their poison schedules up to the required standard.

Mr. Potts thought that, considering the high qualifications now demanded from chemists, they were entitled to demand that the poison schedules should be so altered as to place the sale of poisons entirely in their hands. Not only as a matter of justice to themselves, but for the benefit of the public, should such a course be adopted. At the present time patent medicine vendors were sending out all sorts of stuff, principally from America, and the public, who were unable to analyse and test these things, were being imposed upon, and rendered liable to danger. It was impossible that the public could know the quality of these drugs, etc., as they did that of the bread and meat they ate, and the result was that they took a lot of stuff they would be much better without. If they purchased from a properly qualified man they would get genuine drugs and reliable medicines.

The President said that in Tasmania the sale of poisons was confined to druggists solely, under a penalty of £50. The loose sale of bicarbonate of soda, Epsom salts, and the like should cause the chemist no uneasiness.

Mr. Potts—So it will be in New South Wales if they get their Amended Act through.

The motion was then agreed to.

Mr. Blackett then moved—

"That a Poisons Bill be drafted by the various pharmaceutical bodies of Australasia, and circulated in all the colonies for discussion, and on its adoption that steps be taken to obtain its further adoption by the respective Legislatures."

He thought that this would be the means of helping them in getting the desired uniformity.

Mr. Mayne expressed his disapproval of the proposal, on the ground that the proposed New South Wales Pharmacy Act was all that could be desired, and the best one yet drafted. The word "drug" was defined to mean "internal and external remedies," and the sale of drugs was confined to the registered pharmaceutical chemists.

Mr. Blackett was desirous of doing something to introduce a complete Act. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Sowter, and carried, Mr. Mayne and Mr. Bozon refraining from voting.

With this the second day's proceedings closed.

THIRD DAY.—FRIDAY, 29TH OCTOBER.

ALL the delegates were present, Mr. Fairthorne presiding.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

Fourth Resolution—"Interchange of Certificates. That, on adopting and giving effect to Resolution 1, the Examination Certificates shall be recognised by the Governing Bodies of the various Colonies."

Fifth Resolution—"That the rapid increase in the trade of Proprietary Medicines and Secret Nostrums is antagonistic to the true interest of Pharmacy."

INTERCHANGE OF CERTIFICATES.

Mr. Blackett intimated that he had been requested to take in hand the fourth resolution, dealing with the interchange of certificates.

"That, on adopting and giving effect to Resolution 1, the Examination Certificates shall be recognised by the Governing Bodies of the various Colonies."

It was the principal object of the Conference to bring about a clear understanding, which would pave the way for the long desired object—the recognition of a certificate throughout the Australasian colonies. It was the real, the main object for the meeting of the Conference, and if it were carried the labours of the delegates would do credit to the pharmaceutical world of Australasia. The certificates were to become exchangeable on the carrying into effect of the first resolution. If the Boards of the various colonies would remove any little difficulties that presented themselves, so that no friction could exist, and there could be no legal difficulties in the way, the object would be attained. Of course they should remember that the Conference could not over-ride the will of Parliament. As far as their Act and their powers in Victoria were concerned, they would do everything within the lines of their enactment to facilitate the exchange of certificates. Clause 4, sub-section 18, guided the Board, at the same time giving them a good deal of latitude, which had to be exercised, of course, with great care in the interests of the students. Supposing they had an elaborate system of education—which was an expensive thing—and that system could not be carried out by the other colonies, they would have to be very careful in issuing certificates to keep them of equal value. When the sovereign mint stamp of pharmaceutical competency was put upon the certificates they would exchange. Australians, like their transatlantic cousins, the Americans, were likely to be a little impatient; but they should not expect to achieve the objects of the resolutions at once.

Mr. Pond seconded the motion. It was a mere matter of reiteration, he said, to call attention to the hearty manner in which Victoria had dealt with the various matters connected with the Conference. Mr. Blackett had shown how the exchange of certificates could be brought to a successful issue by the acceptance of the earlier resolutions. There was a little variation in the different Acts as regarded apprenticeship which wanted careful attention. In Queensland the four years' term should be insisted upon, if only to keep in harmony with the other colonies. As long as they endeavoured to emulate Victoria, the exchange of certificates would be indeed a high honour. He urged the raising of the standard as vigorously as Mr. Blackett, and, as far as New Zealand was concerned, he could assure them they would have nothing to be ashamed of.

In reply to Mr. Sowter, Mr. Blackett said that South Australia would be deprived of the privileges of reciprocity until a legislative enactment was brought into operation. The only way out of the difficulty would be the sending of the students to Victoria.

Mr. Scammell was afraid of the expenditure involved. Students were now enabled to go through a course of *Materia Medica*, etc., at the South Australian University.

Mr. Blackett said that many students came to Victoria from Adelaide before the University was established there, just as the students from Tasmania did now.

Mr. Mayne said that, in his opinion, New South Wales had adopted the most liberal system at present existing. They recognised certificates issued,

after examination, by the Queensland, Tasmanian, and New Zealand Boards, and would be happy to recognise South Australia in the same way as soon as they adopted their intended course of examination. For several years they had extended the same recognition to Victoria, but in consequence of the unwillingness displayed by that colony to offer them reciprocal terms, they were ultimately reluctantly compelled to discontinue the practice. The present was a very unsatisfactory condition of affairs, and he hoped at an early date to see the establishment of amicable relations between the two colonies on that point. Their society had a very respectable laboratory, at which they enforced a six months' course of study; and, in addition to this, they had a large museum, with about 400 specimens, and a pharmaceutical library which was, he believed, the most complete in the colonies. They were bringing before Parliament an Amended Act, having for its object the placing of examinations on a very high standard; but he wished it to be distinctly understood that, although they intended to adopt the four years' system, they would continue to recognise diplomas from those colonies which retained the three years' system. Indeed, he considered that when a Colonial Board issued a certificate of competency it would show great want of confidence on their part to refuse to accept it, and they accordingly acknowledged it as a matter of principle. As regards colleges, New South Wales would be glad to recognise the Melbourne College, and, indeed, any recognised college, no matter where it was situated.

Mr. Potts remarked that although their system of education in Queensland was not so perfect as in some of the other colonies, still, in the face of the examinations recently held there, they felt that they had some ground for asking for the desired reciprocity. Only three out of twenty-five candidates got through the first examination, and in the second all the seven failed. This was a matter he wished to impress upon the Conference, and they had regulations providing for the recognition of the Victorian and New South Wales Boards and Societies until May, 1887. At that moment there were in Queensland six chemists provisionally registered, viz., William Cunningham, of Adavale, and H. J. Tracey, of Burketown, from Victoria; John Hall, John Craddock, Edward W. Cohen, from New South Wales; and Francis Letters, of Gympie, from New Zealand. After the provisional time had expired their certificates would be cancelled if reciprocity were not agreed to. New South Wales had already granted it, and Mr. Pond had expressed himself strongly in its favour. If they could secure it with Victoria the registration of its two representatives would be confirmed next May. He understood that mutual relations were established with all but Victoria, and he trusted its representatives would see their way to join in at once.

Mr. Blackett again pointed out that it all depended upon the effect given to the first resolution, which had been adopted so unanimously. Reciprocity followed as a matter of course. He might add, respecting examinations, that the examination of the Victorian Board was open to anybody as far as the papers, etc., were concerned.

In reply to a question, Mr. Mayne stated that the New South Wales examination was also open to the authorities, who knew everything that was being done. A full report of everything was given.

Mr. Blackett, adverting to the standard proposed, said it would never do to bring in such a state of affairs as existed at Edinburgh. There a man could easily get through his examinations after failing in England. The various medical societies would not accept an American diploma, because it was known how very easily it could be obtained. He took the opportunity of pointing out one of the reasons of the misunderstanding between New South Wales and Victoria.

It was the inability to separate the Pharmaceutical Society from the Pharmacy Board. The latter was a legislative body, and had only to do with that part of the examination in Practical Pharmacy.

Mr. Blackett promised to make a note of a query from Mr. Mayne as to the provisional registration by Victoria of the other colonies' certificates.

The motion was put and carried *nem. con.*

THE EXAMINATION PAPERS.

Mr. Pond moved, and Mr. Bozon seconded—

"That it be a request to the Registrars of the Australasian Pharmacy Boards or Councils to forward copies of their examination papers to each Board."

Mr. Shillinglaw—As far as this colony is concerned it has been done for years.

Mr. Mayne—They always have been sent from New South Wales to Victoria. We have not had yours for some length of time.

Mr. Shillinglaw—We have not had one from New South Wales for years.

Mr. Blackett—The Boards could not take offence if there were a proviso. The motion was carried.

LEGISLATIVE POWER.

Mr. Pond moved, and Mr. Mayne seconded—

"That copies of the resolutions adopted by this Conference be forwarded to the Colonial Secretaries of each of the colonies here represented, with a request that Legislative power be given effect to in accordance with these resolutions."

This was likewise carried unanimously.

PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION.

Mr. Potts then moved—

"That, seeing the colonies have agreed to interchange certificates, the Conference respectfully recommends that provisional registration be granted by all the colonies for certificates only granted previous to the holding of this Conference."

Mr. Mayne said he had very much pleasure in seconding the motion.

Mr. Blackett—I must enter an objection to it, because it will destroy the real object of the Conference. It means putting off indefinitely the carrying out of the first resolution.

Mr. Mayne—I think it is only a matter of courtesy on the part of Victoria.

Mr. Pond—if it be made a recommendation I would like to adopt it. We may not have the power of adopting it, though.

Mr. Potts—I don't mean to enforce this matter; I only do it as a recommendation. I am in hopes that the recommendations of this Conference will have some effect upon the Boards relative to the interchange of certificates. I am simply carrying out my instructions, with a view to removing the difficulties affecting the two gentlemen in Queensland who are under provisional registration pending the granting of reciprocity.

Mr. Blackett—with all due respect I must protest earnestly against the proposal, as it is most dangerous and stultifying to our work, and will be productive of a great deal of mischief. It becomes a recommendation of this Conference if it is passed, and, if it is adopted, what will they think of us in England? I speak earnestly and solemnly, and strongly recommend its withdrawal. I can see the effect of it as clearly as possible, and I am sure if Mr. Potts could see it in the same light he would withdraw the motion.

Mr. Pond—I am afraid it will do us an incalculable amount of harm in New Zealand. He implored its withdrawal.

Mr. Potts—I have done it in the interests of two men. But, seeing from what Mr. Blackett says, that it will have a bad effect, and rather than destroy

the unanimity of this Conference, I will withdraw it, with the permission of my seconder.

The President—I am very glad it has been withdrawn. If it had been carried its effects would have been disastrous.

INTERCHANGE WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

Mr. Pond moved, and Mr. Melhuish seconded—

"That the results of this Conference be transmitted to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, with a request that interchange of certificates be considered."

Mr. Blackett intimated that an effort in the same direction was made some time ago, but it was then found to be premature.

The motion was then put, and carried unanimously.

INTERCOLONIAL PHARMACEUTICAL COUNCIL.

Mr. Mayne moved, and Mr. Bozon seconded—

"That it is most desirable that an Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Council should be established, such Council to visit and hold meetings in rotation in the various colonies, to discuss and consider questions relating to Intercolonial Pharmaceutical subjects."

This was carried without any discussion.

PATENT MEDICINES AND SECRET NOSTRUMS.

Mr. Blackett moved the fifth resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Pond—

"That the rapid increase in the trade of proprietary medicines and secret nostrums is antagonistic to the true interest of pharmacy."

The mover remarked that every loyal pharmacist should do all in his power to put a stop to the trade in these patent medicines, which was daily increasing. Some of them were advertised to cure all diseases, and one that was placarded all over the place at the present time was nothing else than common saltpetre. Some medical men were in the habit of prescribing patent medicines which they knew scarcely anything of, and this he condemned as a very undesirable practice and very derogatory to the pharmacist. The common preparation of chlorodyne vended by every storekeeper was a mixture of some of the most deadly poisons—viz., chloroform, prussic acid, and morphia; and many people, principally women, were poisoned with it. Would it not be better for those people who wanted a drug of that kind to go to the chemist or medical man and get morphia pure and simple? It ought to be patent to everybody that the quack medicines could not do what was claimed for them. Phosphodyne, sold some years ago at five guineas a box, was composed of nothing else than citrate of iron and quinine, and was a very weak composition at that. He felt degraded when he had to hand over his counter these patent medicines to his customers, and felt *particeps criminis* in the fraud. It would be a great boon if they could insist upon the same law as France and Germany did in respect of these medicines. In those countries they were analysed before they were allowed to be sold, and, if found genuine, were passed, otherwise they were prohibited. In conclusion, he said that he had lived 55 years, and had never taken a pill, a black draught, or a seidlitz powder, and many people might save themselves a lot of money and trouble by avoiding quack medicines.

The President said that Tasmania did not allow the sale of patent medicines other than by registered chemists.

The motion was carried *nem. con.*

CONDOLENCE.

On the motion of Mr. Blackett, seconded by Mr. Huntsman, the following resolution was carried:—

"That a letter be sent by this Conference to Mr. H. T. Tompsitt, expressing its sympathy with him in his present family affliction and bereavement."

GERMAN CERTIFICATES.

In reply to Mr. Pond, Mr. Blackett said that Victoria recognised the German universities as far as the higher examinations were concerned.

THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.

Mr. Potts moved, and Mr. Pond seconded, the following resolution, which was unanimously agreed to:—

"That the hearty thanks of this Conference be given to the local Conference Committee, the Victoria Pharmacy Board, and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia for their successful and admirable efforts in organising this the first Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference, and for the liberal hospitality extended to the delegates from the other colonies."

In returning thanks, Mr. Blackett said they had had to work under somewhat adverse circumstances, owing to the absence of Mr. Bowen, President of the Pharmaceutical Society, also of Mr. Bosisto, both of whom were absent in England. He felt proud of the results of the Conference.

MR. SHILLINGLAW.

Mr. Pond, in moving—

"That the best thanks of this Conference be given to Mr. Harry Shillinglaw for the untiring zeal and ability he has displayed in the performance of his duties as honorary secretary to this Conference, and for his uniform kindness and courtesy—"

said he could not speak in terms of too high praise of Mr. Shillinglaw, who was always ready to oblige any colony or any pharmacist, and to perform any act of kindness in his power.

Mr. Melhuish, in seconding the motion, said that in Mr. Shillinglaw they had the right man in the right place.

Mr. Shillinglaw said he was pleased to find that his efforts had been appreciated, and he hoped at the next Conference to see the secretaries of all the societies present. He would always be happy in promoting matters connected with pharmacy.

MR. FAIRTHORNE.

Mr. Bozon moved, and Mr. Mayne seconded—

"That the warmest thanks are due and are hereby tendered to Mr. Fairthorne, President of this Conference, for the courteous and very able manner in which he has conducted the business."

Mr. Fairthorne replied in feeling terms, and hoped their work would meet with general approval and result in practical benefits.

PRESENTATION.

The President, turning in Mr. Blackett's direction, then said—I have now much pleasure, on behalf of the delegates, in presenting Mr. Blackett, as representing the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, with the sum of £10 for the purpose of purchasing books for the use of that society, Messrs. Blackett, Shillinglaw, Jackson, and Potts to be the committee for making the selection.

Mr. Blackett, in acknowledgment, said—I may say, on behalf of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, that this gift will be received with great pleasure. We shall take care that it shall be spent in such a way as to be a perpetual memorial of the attendance of the delegates from the other colonies at the first Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference.

This closed the proceedings.

THE BANQUET.

On the evening of Wednesday, the 27th, upwards of sixty gentlemen sat down to the inaugural banquet given by the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society to the delegates. The main hall, in which it was held, was tastefully decorated. The chair was occupied by Mr. Blackett, and amongst those present were—Professor Allen (Dean of the Faculty of Medicine), Professor Kernot (President of the Royal Society), Baron Von Mueller (President of the Geographical Society), Dr. Willmott (President of the Victorian Branch of the British Medical Association), and Dr. Jamieson (President of the Medical Society). Mr. Blackett read apologies from Mr. Deakin (the Chief Secretary), Mr. Pearson (the Minister of Education), and Mr. G. Coppin, M.L.A., who were prevented from being present through pressure of Parliamentary business. Messrs. Mayne and Bozon, two of the New South Wales delegates, also intimated that they were unable to be present owing to another engagement.

After the usual loyal toasts had been duly honoured, Mr. F. S. Grimwade gave the toast of the evening, viz., "The Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference." He said it was the first time in the history of the colonies that such a conference had been inaugurated, and he thought the occasion was one that called forth special honour. The idea of holding the conference was first projected in November of last year, and, after a little opposition to it, the other colonies agreed to send representatives, and the result up to that evening appeared eminently satisfactory. Its main objects were in the direction of a uniform standard of education, and the interchange of certificates and general reciprocal policy, which were to lead up to federation. If the dispensing chemist was to occupy a first position, and be in the van of knowledge and scientific research, he would require to be a man of learning, and this, of course, necessitated a very long and systematic training. Unless the pharmacist of the future were able to rank in the first position, he would be almost useless to himself and the general community. One of the most important ends to be attained by the standard proposed was the mutual relations with the other colonies. And if the two propositions were carried, the conference would certainly have had a very valuable sitting, and would further be conferring indirect benefits upon the public at large. Similar conferences were by no means new to Europe, America, or Great Britain, where the twenty-third gathering of pharmacists was held only as far back as August last, and the September periodicals contained a very interesting account of its proceedings. The uniformity in education proposed would tend to stimulate pharmacy throughout Australasia, and would create for the profession much greater esteem and respect than it commanded now. Its unanimity would also show that what little they could add towards the federation of the colonies would be heartily accomplished. (Applause.)

Mr. Melhuish, replying on behalf of New South Wales, said he hoped the manifest good feeling between the various colonies would long exist.

Mr. Pond (Auckland), on behalf of New Zealand, said he believed they were taking the correct stand in demanding the most thorough examination possible. The reciprocal policy propounded would do a deal towards bringing the colonies into unison, and to reaching federation, which would be so much required for protection in the future.

Mr. Fairthorne (Launceston) was quite sure that the status of pharmacists would be improved in the results of the conference. Federation in pharmacy was most desirable.

Mr. Ash (Hobart) suitably returned thanks for the warm reception given the delegates by the Victorian Pharmaceutical Society.

Mr. Sowter (South Australia) remarked that, although the society in South Australia was in its infancy, he predicted great good for it by the conference, and hoped it would one day be equally as useful as the society in Victoria.

Mr. Potts, replying on behalf of Queensland, referred to the many kindnesses they had received from the Victorian Pharmaceutical Board, and Mr. Shillinglaw, the hon. secretary, who always showed himself ready and willing to help them along whenever they found themselves in difficulties. He was equally sanguine of the successful result of their united labours.

Mr. Blackett, in proposing the toast of the medical profession, said it was absolutely necessary that the physician and pharmacist should be intimately related. The ablest physician might labour in vain without the pharmacist, who required to be a man of superior education and practical utility in his business, able to test prussic acid, to find the percentage of quinine in the preparation of citrate of iron and quinine—(roars of laughter)—and to send out liquor potasse at its proper strength. Then the physician would have some confidence in him, and could write his prescriptions with safety, well knowing that they would be properly made up. It might be said by some people that his idea of the standard of education was too high, still he preferred it being so to descending to any lower level. If they kept up a high standard they could snap their fingers at mutual stores—(applause)—and the medical profession would not be abettors to the degradation of pharmacy which they had to tolerate. No man worthy of the name would think of allowing his prescriptions to be entrusted to wholesale grocers and dealers. If that sort of thing went on they might expect some day to find bacon and cheese merchants with a surgeon and chemist on the premises. (Laughter.) What did grocers know about pharmacy? Could they tell the percentage of quinine in citrate of iron and quinine—(renewed laughter)—or test the strength of prussic acid? No; their status was limited to pounds of butter and cheese. Adverting to the relationships between the physician and pharmacist, he said there was a very nice distinction. A pharmacist should never treat a case, or pretend to practice a knowledge that he didn't possess. Of course they were compelled to give a kind of domestic advice to people generally, but they should never venture farther. It was important that the cobbler should stick to his last. (Hear, hear.) Many a life might have been saved if it had been left to the physician, whose business it was to carefully diagnose and prescribe accordingly, and if the pharmacist kept within legitimate lines he would gain in self-respect and prestige with the medical profession. (Applause.) By their University course the medical profession of Australasia had attained a position recognised almost throughout the world. Many a man who couldn't pass in Victoria had no difficulty in getting his degrees at the Scotch Universities. (A voice: Question.) He had no wish to reflect upon the Scotch Universities, but he really could not help saying that some men who had passed in Scotland were unable to get through in Victoria. It was positively unfair to the Melbourne University. Protection should be made to apply all round. With regard to pharmacy, he did not see any reason why their students should not be recognised at the University. Pharmacy was a cognate science, and it might be admitted by affiliation or direct teaching. Before, however, thinking of, or hoping for, such a step, it was their duty to show the University Council that they were worthy of it, and the standard of education proposed would doubtless be a wise step in that direction. In conclusion, he said he would like to see pharmacy introduced into the medical curriculum of the respective colonies.

Professor Allen, replying to the toast, remarked that all medical men would, he felt sure, congratulate the pharmacists in the initiation of the conference, and the work they were engaged in performing. For his own part, he was exceedingly gratified to find that they were determined to reach and maintain the very highest standard. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the relations between the medical profession and the pharmacist, there were, certainly, little differences at times, but they were only storms in tea cups—matrimonial storms. (Laughter.) In connection with the uniform system of education proposed they could rely upon having the medical profession entirely with them in the good work. It was impossible for them to get any teaching in the Medical School approaching the training of the Pharmaceutical Society, and the medical profession were all the more pleased to find the adoption of a perfect system of education, as it would be the means of inducing the medical students to take advantage of it. There were regulations shortly coming from the senate of the University which, it was hoped, would attain that desirable purpose, and every medical student would then have to pass through the School of Pharmacy, and the new laboratory would probably be offered to them to carry on independent scientific research. He considered it would be to the future interests of the two professions if their new professors—Jackson and Masson—were given ample scope to develop their respective courses of education. (Applause.)

Dr. Jamieson, replying to the toast, remarked that in no part of the world he had been through were the relations between the physician and pharmacist better than in Melbourne. (Applause.) He congratulated the Conference on its ambitious educational undertaking, and expressed himself hopeful of seeing the mutual policy propounded made fully effective throughout Australasia. (Applause.)

Dr. Willmott also replied, prefacing his little speech with the remark that he did not think the pharmacists were really so fond of doctors as to be able to tolerate three of them in one short evening. He expressed his warmest thanks for the invitation to the banquet, and heartily congratulated the pharmacists upon the success of the first day's sitting of the Conference. He agreed with Professor Allen that pharmacy was not best taught medical men in the medical schools.

Mr. B. C. Harriman proposed the toast of "Science, Art, and Letters," coupled with the names of Baron Von Mueller and Professor Kernot, in an appropriate speech.

Baron Sir Ferd. Von Mueller, in replying to the toast, said he thought the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia was adding a deal towards the progress of science, and he trusted the high standard adopted would be rigidly maintained.

Professor Kernot returned his most sincere thanks for the honour done him, and likewise complimented the society upon the inauguration of the conference.

Mr. Alfred H. Jackson, Director of the College of Pharmacy, in replying, said he had only that moment heard he was required to say a few words in response to the toast, and it was presumably because that pharmacy was based upon a knowledge of the Sciences of chemistry and botany—that it was within the province of an Art—even Professor Kernot could testify from his early study of pill machinery—and that a knowledge of Letters was needed by the pharmacist was only too palpable when the unfortunate dispenser had to decipher the well-nigh cuneiform hieroglyphics of some illegible prescription. There were two sources of exhaustion that had not been mentioned by the president of the Royal Society—viz., time and patience; hence the brevity of his speech at that late hour. He had to thank the Dean of the medical faculty of the University of Melbourne for his kind references,

and also for his interest in the welfare of the college, especially as regarded his desire—and that of Dr. Willmott also—to see the medical students of the University trained in pharmacy and descriptive *materia medica* in the College of Pharmacy. During the past few years he had visited most of the laboratories and colleges, both in the old world and in the new, and bearing in mind the specimens and apparatus with which the college was to be further enriched, he had no hesitation in declaring that the facilities for the training of pharmacists were at least equal to those of any other institution, and he looked forward with pleasure to teaching students who would do credit to the college and to the pharmacy of Australasia. He also looked onward to the time when not only intercolonial certificates would be reciprocal, but when there would be Imperial reciprocity. To attain that end he would direct attention to the humorous yet weighty speech of the gentleman who occupied the chair, not to give too much attention to the butter and cheese question, but to aim at a high standard of qualification, rather than just such a smattering of information as would enable a man to pass the easiest examination in the shortest time. He hoped the Conference would keep in view a high ideal of the education and examination, as well as the privileges and responsibilities of the profession, which they so ably represented. The increasing potency and standardization of medicines, the use of active principles and pure chemicals in place of crude drugs, and the requirements of the physician to have only the active portion of a drug prepared in the form best suited for administration, combined to render more necessary than ever that thorough training of the pharmacist which i was the object of the college to afford. (Applause.)

Mr. H. Brind, of Ballarat, proposed the toast of the visitors, which was replied to by Mr. S. Fripp and Mr. Francis Forrest. The former expressed sincere regret that domestic affliction had prevented Mr. H. T. Tompsitt from taking part in the conference and the festivities connected with it. Mr. Tompsitt was one of the principal movers in the inauguration of the conference, and its deliberations would doubtless have his keen attention and best wishes. (Applause.)

Selections of vocal and instrumental music ended a pleasant evening.

FESTIVITES.

The festivities to the delegates to the Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference and their friends were continued without interruption during the whole time they were in Melbourne. At the conclusion of the business on the first day of meeting (27th October), they were entertained at lunch at the *Maison Dorée*, and were afterwards shown over the Melbourne University, Parliament Houses, Public Library, the Town Hall, etc. In the evening the inaugural banquet was held in the Pharmaceutical Society's Hall, and was in every way a success, representatives of medicine, science, art, and letters being all present.

On Thursday, the 28th October, after luncheon, they inspected the Aquarium, Exhibition Building, and Zoological Gardens, and, after dining together, visited the Bijou Theatre.

At the conclusion of the business on Friday, the 29th October, the delegates accepted an invitation to lunch with Mr. F. S. Grimwade, at his residence, Balaclava, when a most sumptuous repast was served. In the afternoon a drag was provided, and the guests were driven through the principal southern suburbs, including Toorak, Hawthorn, Kew, Studley Park, etc., returning to Melbourne to dinner. The day being beautifully fine, a pleasant afternoon was spent, and in the evening the visitors were present at the recital given by Mr. Locke Richardson, at the *Athenæum*.

On Saturday, the 30th October, the racing carnival commenced, and a four-in-hand drag was provided to take the visitors to the racecourse, where they lunched together, and spent a most agreeable day. No amusement was provided for the evening, everyone being thoroughly tired out with the excitements of Derby Day.

On Monday, the 1st November, a brief respite was granted to the visitors, to enable them to have the photographs which appear in this issue taken. In the afternoon they visited by appointment Mr. Guilfoyle, at the Botanical Gardens, and were received by that gentleman in his customary hospitable manner. The afternoon was too short to do justice to the beauties of the gardens, and the kindly interest taken in the visitors by the director.

After dinner an adjournment was made to the Theatre Royal to witness the spectacular drama, "Human Nature."

An event which most of the delegates looked forward to with great pleasure was being enabled to witness the greatest racing event of the year—the Melbourne Cup. As on the Derby Day, they were driven to the course in a four-in-hand, and the reunion at the lunch was a most enjoyable affair. In the evening the delegates were the guests of Messrs. Charles Pleasance and T. Huntsman at the Oriental Hotel.

On the morning of the 3rd November a start was made by the train leaving Melbourne at 6.30 for Ballarat, where it was proposed to spend a couple of days, and, notwithstanding the fatigues of the previous day, all the delegates "turned up." Upon arrival, the visitors were received and welcomed by the following gentlemen—Messrs. Brind, Longstaff, Palmer, Wheeler, Malyon, and Scott, and an adjournment was made to Craig's Hotel, where the delegates were entertained at breakfast by the Ballarat Chemists' Association. A reception was afterwards held at the Town Hall, where a right hearty welcome was given to the delegates by the mayor.

A visit was then paid to the School of Mines, where the vice-president, Mr. Jas. Oddie, was in attendance. Professors A. Mica Smith and Krause and Mr. Andrew Berry also took great pains to show the visitors this admirable institution. Being in the Golden City, it was, of course, necessary to inspect the wonderful mine of the Band and Albion, where some time was spent. Several of the gentlemen present being interested in mining in the other colonies, this portion of the programme had great attraction for them. A start was then made to the Gardens, but the time was all too short to do justice to this very beautiful spot. A return was made across the lake by steamer. In the evening some twenty guests assembled at the residence of Mr. Henry Brind, and were entertained by that gentleman in the most sumptuous manner, and, in response to the toast of his health, which was proposed by Mr. J. A. Pond, of Auckland, Mr. Brind expressed the pleasure it gave him to welcome the delegates to Ballarat, and the good results to be looked forward to from the Conference.

On the morning of the 4th of November, a number of interesting industries at present in operation in Ballarat were inspected, and special mention may be made of the Phoenix Foundry, which greatly interested the visitors.

By the kind permission of the chairman of the Ballarat Water Trust arrangements were made to visit the Gong Gong water reserves, and the party started from Ballarat shortly after 11 a.m. under the able supervision of Mr. Curthoys, the courteous and obliging secretary to the Trust. The outing was greatly enjoyed, and the *al fresco* luncheon was one of the features of the day, and after a delightful drive back to Ballarat and dinner at Craig's Hotel, the party returned to Melbourne by the 7.10 train loud in the praise of the kindness and hospitality they had received.

On Saturday, the 6th November, no special programme was provided, some of the delegates visiting the races at Flemington, while others preferred the cricket match.

The delegates had accepted the invitation of Messrs. Blackett and Huntsman to visit Queenscliff on Sunday, the 7th. The day was all that could be desired for a marine excursion, and was thoroughly enjoyed, the party dining together at Adman's Hotel, and, after spending some time in inspecting the fortifications, returned to Melbourne by the steamer, and were entertained by Mr. C. R. Blackett at supper at his house in Fitzroy. The time for the departure of the visitors had now arrived, and the last evening of their stay was spent at the house of Mr. Huntsman, where a most splendid dinner was done full justice to, with many kindly wishes to the hospitable host. We cannot close these remarks without recording the genuine expressions of good feeling expressed by the delegates at the reception they had received during the whole of their visit to Victoria, and nothing occurred to mar the harmony that existed throughout the whole of the festival.

To Mr. Charles Pleasance, who, by his constant kindness and attention, contributed not a little to the success of the meeting, special thanks are due, and we feel satisfied that the delegates to the first Pharmaceutical Conference, who dispersed on the morning of the 11th November, will carry back with them many kindly remembrances of the meeting.

PRESENTATION TO MR. SHILLINGLAW.

THE whole of the delegates to the Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference, with the exception of Messrs. Mayne and Bozon, were present at the Oriental Hotel, on the morning of the 2nd November, when a presentation of a handsome silver inkstand was made to Mr. H. Shillinglaw, the hon. secretary of the Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference. Mr. H. W. Potts read the following letter:—

Melbourne, 2nd November, 1886.

HARRY SHILLINGLAW Esq., Hon. Secretary Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference.

DEAR SIR,—We beg you to accept the accompanying inkstand as a small memento of our visit to Melbourne.

We wish especially to recognise the able and valued advice you from time to time tendered us during our deliberations at the Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference on those all important subjects the details of which you are so thoroughly conversant with.

Those of us who reside in other colonies take with us the most pleasing recollections of the munificent hospitality received during our visit, to which by your forethought and constant kindly attention you have so largely contributed. We who reside in Victoria heartily endorse this.

We sincerely trust you will be long spared to continue those valuable services you have rendered to the true interests of pharmacy, and which are felt and appreciated throughout Australasia. We remain, dear sir, faithfully yours,

THOMAS BOUCHER MELHUISH, Delegate for New South Wales.

L. FAIRTHORNE, Delegate for Tasmania.

E. RAYMOND ASH, Delegate for Tasmania.

J. A. POND, Delegate for New Zealand.

GEO. BONNINGTON, Delegate for New Zealand.

W. H. SOWTER, Delegate for South Australia.

L. R. SCAMMELL, Delegate for South Australia.

C. R. BLACKETT, Delegate for Victoria.

THOMAS HUNTSMAN, Delegate for Victoria.

H. W. POTTS, Delegate for Queensland.

Mr. L. Fairthorne, the president of the Conference, then presented the inkstand, which bore the following inscription:—

HARRY SHILLINGLAW,

AS A SOUVENIR OF THE INTERCOLONIAL PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE,

October, 1886.

Mr. Pond proposed Mr. Shillinglaw's health, and said that he should always remember with great pleasure the kindness shown to him by that gentleman. The attention and forethought which had characterised the carrying out of the business arrangements of the Conference reflected the greatest credit on Mr. Shillinglaw, and he trusted that he would be long spared to enjoy a happy and prosperous life.

Mr. Shillinglaw, while thanking the gentlemen present for their good wishes, said he thought it scarcely fair to take all the credit to himself. He might mention that Messrs. Tompsitt, Blackett, Huntsman, and R. P. Francis had each done a great deal of work to make the Conference a success. It was exceedingly pleasant for him to know that they would take away with them pleasing recollections of Victoria and the first Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference.

THE CONFERENCE AND ITS RESULTS.

"THE end crowns the work." Since our last issue the Conference which has for so long a period occupied a leading position in the thoughts and discussions of Australian pharmacists has met, and brought its labours to a successful termination—successful, it may be added, to a degree far exceeding the most sanguine hopes even of those who have been foremost in the movement. And while the gentlemen taking part in it have every reason to feel proud of having been privileged to attend as the chosen representatives of their respective colonies, it is not too much to say that the colonies have in every instance reason to congratulate themselves on their selection, and that the delegates to the first Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference would have done credit to themselves and their constituents at any gathering of a similar character throughout the world. Unlike the majority of public discussions, there was a refreshing absence during the sittings of any attempts at "speechifying" or fine phrases, every delegate speaking like a man penetrated with a sense of the deep responsibility of his position; the discussions, even when most animated, giving plain evidence that the speakers had come to their duties without any mental reservations, and resolutely determined to speak to and vote on each question on its merits. The hearty sympathy displayed by each and all with the main objects in view was, it must be confessed, a grateful surprise to ourselves, bearing in mind the ingeniously cloaked attempts which have for some time past been made to foment discord and jealousy by the raising of paltry side issues—attempts which, it is now evident, have been treated with the contempt they deserved.

With the various resolutions proposed for discussion, and our views upon them, our readers are already pretty familiar, and it is only necessary for us here to give a brief *résumé* of the leading points brought out in discussion, the details of which will be found in our special report elsewhere.

During the first day the unanimity displayed in the adoption of the first resolution—affirming the desirability of a uniform system of education—augured well for the success of the meeting. On clause A, dealing with the preliminary examination, it was argued on behalf of South Australia and Tasmania that, in the absence of legislation, there would be a difficulty in making it compulsory, but Mr. Blackett pointed out that this could be overcome for the time being by an understanding among pharmacists not to accept anyone as apprentice who had not passed such an examination, and no further opposition was offered to its acceptance. A gratifying unanimity also existed as to the necessity (clause B) for a four years' apprenticeship; even Mr. Pond, who proposed, and Mr. Potts, who seconded, an amendment to reduce the term to three years explaining that they were personally in sympathy with the longer period, which was ultimately adopted, as was also the

proposal (clause c) that the course of study should be based upon the course adopted by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. Some of the speakers feared that great difficulty would be experienced in making the proposed curriculum compulsory; but Mr. Blackett, who earnestly dwelt upon the necessity of this step, removed a misapprehension on the point by explaining that so long as there was a recognised teacher it did not require fine buildings to constitute a school of pharmacy. In proposing clause d, dealing with the appointment of examiners, Mr. Blackett made what we consider a very good suggestion—that with the view of keeping them up to the mark, the period of election should be limited to twelve months; and although the proposal was not included in the resolution as ultimately carried, the idea is, we think, worthy of consideration at the hands of the various Boards. An interesting discussion took place on the proposal that the examinations should be written and oral in every subject; and eventually Mr. Blackett, while strongly insisting on the superiority of the oral examinations, gave way to the wish expressed that discretionary power should be left to the various Boards and Societies in the matter. There was no difference of opinion as regards the age (21) of candidates for the qualifying examination; but the decision arrived at as regards oral examinations rendered necessary an alteration in the final resolution on the day's programme, dealing with the subjects of examination, which, as amended, was unanimously adopted.

On the second day Mr. Huntsman reviewed at some length the various points of similarity and divergence in the pharmaceutical laws of the various colonies, and, after an animated discussion had brought to light many interesting facts in connection therewith, the desirability of uniformity was unanimously affirmed. The clauses in the Victorian Act being then accepted as a basis of discussion, Mr. Blackett raised the question as to the presence of medical men on a Pharmacy Board, and expressed the opinion, with which we confess our agreement, that medical men should have no more to do with Pharmacy Boards than chemists with Medical Boards. In deference to the wishes of New South Wales and Tasmania, the suggestion was not, however, proceeded with. The omission in the interpretation clause of the name of the colony recommended itself for adoption, and with the view of preventing any other than properly-registered chemists carrying on business as such, it was decided to adopt clause 10 of the Amended Pharmacy Act of Victoria, "or words of similar import." The necessity of uniformity in the laws relating to the sale and use of poisons and the regulations for their custody was next affirmed, Mr. Blackett entering a spirited protest against the words "where practicable;" and it was finally decided that a Poisons Bill should be drafted and circulated for discussion, and, on its adoption, that steps should be taken to obtain its acceptance by the Legislatures of the various colonies.

On the third day Mr. Blackett, in proposing the fourth resolution, dealing with the interchange of certificates, clearly pointed out that this entirely depended upon the effect given to the first resolution. The recognition of a certificate throughout the Australasian colonies was, he said, the main object for the meeting of the Conference, and if it were carried out the labours of the delegates would be creditable to the pharmaceutical world of Australasia. An effort was subsequently made by Mr. Potts to obtain the provisional registration of certificates granted previous to the holding of the Conference, the immediate object being to remove the difficulties affecting two gentlemen with Victorian certificates at present in Queensland; but an earnest protest from Mr. Blackett induced the withdrawal of the motion. An excellent suggestion was then adopted, on the motion of Mr. Mayne, for the establishment of a

Visiting Intercolonial Council, which we trust to see carried into effect at an early date.

As we anticipated would be the case, the fifth and last resolution on the programme, condemnatory of proprietary medicines and secret nostrums, was adopted without dissent, but there was a regretable absence of practical suggestions as to the best means of achieving the desired end.

In a future issue we shall have more to say upon the bearings of the various resolutions adopted. So far, our hopes of the Conference have been more than realised; but we do not blind ourselves to the fact that there remain many obstacles in the way of the desired consummation still to be removed, and that in any case its accomplishment will necessarily be a work of time. But pharmacists are now fairly committed to the task, and we have every confidence as to the final results. For ourselves, we shall, as hitherto, ardently advocate every means by which pharmaceutical uniformity and federation can be hastened, and we cordially invite pharmacists of every colony to utilise our pages in furthering the good work.

THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

THE following notice appeared in the *Government Gazette* of the 29th ult:—

"THE PHARMACY ACT 1876."

Whereas by *The Pharmacy Act 1876* the Board is empowered from time to time to make, alter, or rescind regulations for the purpose of carrying the said Act into effect: And whereas, in pursuance of the said power, the Board made certain regulations, which were duly confirmed on the 22nd day of October, 1877, in pursuance of the provisions of the said Act, by the Governor-in-Council, and published in the *Government Gazette* of the 26th day of October, 1877: And whereas it is expedient to supplement the list of text-books named in Clause 61 of the said regulations; it is ordered by the said Board that

VIRGIL, *AENEID*, Book I.,

be added to the list of text-books on which applicants for registration as Pharmaceutical Chemists shall be examined by the Pharmacy Board of Victoria.

ALFRED DEAKIN, Chief Secretary.

Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne.

Approved by the Governor-in-Council the 11th October, 1886—ROB. WADSWORTH, Clerk of the Executive Council.

AN epidemic of diphtheric sore throat, which recently attacked 200 persons at Canterbury, England, was attributed by the local medical officer to drinking contaminated milk.

THE *British and Colonial Druggist* has the following:—"The Chemist and the Inspector.—In a chemist's shop just outside this city (Manchester) a curious sight might have been witnessed a short time since. The chemist was seen rushing frantically round his counter pursued by a man six feet high, and weighing about 16 stone; neither murder nor robbery was the intent of the pursuer; he was simply the inspector under the Adulteration Act, and had asked for white wine vinegar, which was supplied to him in a bottle by the proprietor. Upon the inspector stating he purchased the sample for analysis, the chemist snatched up the bottle and proceeded with all haste to the sink to empty it; hence the hurry of both pursuer and pursued. The chemist was in time to throw most of it away, but what little the inspector saved turned out to be more like acid acet. dil. than anything else.

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With which is incorporated the Australasian Chemist and Druggist.

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No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for

insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will be glad to consider any suggestions from Members and Subscribers regarding the improvement of this publication.

Contributions of any items of interest are invited.

Advertisements to be inserted in the next issue should be received by the Publisher not later than the 14th of each month.

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Readers are respectfully requested to mention this Journal when acting on information obtained from it.

Original and Selected Articles.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.—ITS BIRTH AND PROGRESS.

No. IV.

THE history of the year 1859–60 commences with a special meeting of the council held in March, 1859, at which Mr. Lewis was elected president, Mr. Johnson vice-president, Mr. Croad treasurer, and Mr. Kruse secretary for the ensuing year. It may be here added that, on 11th August, Mr. Croad having found himself unable to continue to act as treasurer, a vote of thanks was accorded to him for his energetic and valuable services, and Mr. Wragge was elected his successor, only, however, to resign at the next meeting, when Mr. Dunstone accepted the office. On 9th September some further changes were made, Messrs. Long and Plummier being added to the council, and on Mr. Plummer shortly afterwards tendering his resignation, his seat was filled by Mr. W. Ford.

With the object of still further widening the scope of the society, it was resolved, at a meeting on 28th April, that members of other scientific societies, and gentlemen interested in scientific pursuits, should be invited to attend the ordinary monthly lectures; and the minutes of a special meeting held on 11th May record the adoption of the resolution—"That a letter be written and sent to his Excellency Sir Henry Barkly, soliciting the honour of his becoming patron or honorary member of the society, and that he would be pleased to receive the back numbers of the *Journal*." In his reply his Excellency expressed his

great pleasure in becoming an honorary member, and his thanks for the copies of the *Journal* sent to him.

The growing evil of excessive competition was one of the first subjects to which the new council directed its attention, and at a special meeting, held on the 13th June, it was decided to call a general meeting of the chemists and druggists in and about Melbourne to take into consideration the practicability of agreeing on some course of action, Messrs. Williams, Lewis, Wragge, and Thomas being, in the meantime, instructed to draw up a price list to be submitted for general adoption. A report of the meeting, which was attended by about 40 gentlemen, is given in the *Journal* for July, from which it appears that a very harmonious feeling pervaded the discussions, and the list of prices submitted by the sub-committee having been read, it was, after a few trifling alterations and explanations, agreed to, conditionally that all the other members of the trade engaged in business in Melbourne and suburbs also subscribed. It was decided that deputations should be appointed to call upon all those not present at the meeting and obtain their adhesion; and that should any change subsequently become necessary in the list, another meeting should be summoned to reconsider its details. With the view of enabling our readers to compare modern quotations with those current 27 years ago we give, in full, the schedule of prices which it was decided to adopt as "the lowest charged retail" in the establishments of the subscribers.

Mixtures and Gargles:—16oz., 5s.; 12oz., 4s.; 8oz., 3s.; 6oz., 2s. 6d.; 4, 3, and 2 oz., 2s.; 1½oz., 1s. 6d.

Lotions and Injections:—16oz., 4s.; 12oz., 3s. 6d.; 8 and 6 oz., 2s. 6d. 4oz., 2s.

Pills:—6, 1s.; 12, 1s. 6d.; 24, 2s. 6d.

Liniments:—Under 4oz., 1s. per oz.

Draughts:—Each, 1s. 6d.

Powders:—2, 6d.; 3 or 4, 1s.; 6., 1s. 6d.; 12, 2s. 6d.

Aperient Draught and Pills:—Each, 1s. 6d.

Rowlands' Preparations:—Macassar Oil, 3s. 6d size, 4s.; ditto, 7s. size, 10s. 6d; Odonto, 3s. 6d.; Kalydor, 6s. 6d.

Farinaceous Foods:—1s. size, 1s. 6d.; 2s. size, 3s 6d.

Patents and Proprietary Medicines, &c.:—1s. size, 2s.; 1s 1½d. ditto, 2s.; 1s. 6d. ditto, 2s 6d.; 1s. 9d. ditto, 3s.; 2s. ditto, 3s. 6d.; 2s. 6d. ditto, 4s.; 2s. 9d. ditto, 4s.; 3s. 6d. ditto, 5s.; 4s. 6d. ditto, 7s.; Townsend's sarsa, 7s.; Morrison's pills, 1s. 6d.; Brandreth's ditto, 1s. 6d.; Painkiller, 1s. size, 1s. 6d.; Hockin's seidlitz, 3s. 6d.; pulv. seid., colonial, 2s.

General:—Fol. senna, 6d. oz.; Epsom salts, 2d. oz., or 3d. for 2oz.; mag. carbon, 6d per oz.; mag. calc. and mag. pond, 1s. per oz.; pulv. rheii., 2s. per oz.; pot. bitart, 3d. per oz.; soda carbon, 2d. per oz., or 3d. for 2oz.; sem. lini., 1s. per lb.; pulv. lini., 1s. per lb.; p. acid tart., 3d. per oz.; sp. æth. nit., 1s. per oz.; sp. ammon. co., 1s. per oz.; bals. copaib., 1s. per oz.; tinetures, various, 1s. per oz.; ammon. carbon., 1s. 6d. per lb.; castor oil, 4oz., 1s.; 6oz., 1s.; 12oz., 2s.; 20oz., 3s. 6d.; feeding bottles, 2s.; large do., 2s. 6d.; teats, 1s. each.

The absurd hindrances to chemical research and manufactures which were at this period of our history offered by the Customs department of Victoria can scarcely be realised by the younger generation of pharmacists, and the following extract from an article on the subject in the *Journal* will therefore prove of interest. After pointing out how largely the success of a nation's manufactures depends upon the unrestrained culture of chemical science, the writer goes on to say:—

We labour under excise restrictions which in the mother country have been felt, admitted, and removed. Many chemicals which are unsuitable for sea carriage, either dangerous or liable to deterioration during the voyage, might be made in the colony with advantage, if they did not require for their preparation that forbidden utensil—a still. The possession of stills and the performance of distillation are alike forbidden to the chemist, for the law, as at present existing, is practically a prohibition; and excise supervision has been hitherto carried out with a spirit which, we believe, may be characterised as meanly foolish and dishonestly tyrannical. . . . Comparing our present position with that of chemists and manufacturers of England, we find that in the old country there is no real hindrance to the use of stills for either experiment or manufacture, and that methylated spirit (that is to say, spirit of wine to which a small proportion of wood spirit has been added) may be sold and used, duty free—an enlightened and just provision by which the manufactures of the home country are fostered without materially affecting the revenue.

In the month of August a deputation from the council waited upon the then Collector of Customs and the Attorney-General, from both of whom a promise was obtained that the grievances complained of should receive their best attention.

In October Messrs. Bosisto and Thomas were appointed to consult with the members on the subject of the proposed Pharmacy Bill, and at a general meeting held on 16th November it was unanimously resolved—"That this meeting, being of opinion that the time has now arrived for taking active measures to obtain an Act of Parliament for regulating the qualification of pharmaceutical chemists, begs to urge upon the council the necessity for their immediate action thereon, such Act to be as near as practicable a copy of the Act in force in Great Britain." As a matter of fact, the bill which had been already drafted by the council exactly fulfilled the specified conditions, differing from its British prototype only in some minor details, so as to render it applicable for colonial adoption. In pursuance of the resolution above quoted, the council took steps to obtain advice of counsel respecting its introduction as a public or private bill, the following being the "opinion" given by Mr. Carter through Messrs. Muttlebury and Malleson:—"I am of opinion that a society must be formed under a Deed of Association before Parliament will grant powers corresponding with those contained in the Act of Imperial Parliament, and that the Bill will even then come within the meaning of the Bills of the first class under the second standing order of our Legislature. If, therefore, it is essential that the Bill should be taken out of the influence of the standing orders, the promoters must first consider if they have the power to get the necessary resolutions passed. The promoters have not given adequate consideration to the fact that in the mother country a charter of incorporation existed." As this opinion was not received until after the annual meeting, it remained for the following year to deal with the unforeseen difficulties thus brought to light.

While a handful of enthusiasts were thus zealously labouring in the cause of pharmacy, the interest originally taken in the society by the general members seemed to be gradually but surely dying out. First the monthly meetings, at which excellent lectures and papers were read, had to be discontinued, the paucity of attendance, to quote from the report presented at the third annual meeting on 22nd March, 1860, "giving but little encouragement for voluntary services." Next, the increasing difficulty of collecting the subscriptions rendered it impossible to continue the quarterly publication of the *Journal*, which had been so ably edited by Mr. W. Johnson; and so discouraged did one member of council become that he actually gave notice of motion—which was not, however, followed up—"to reduce the object of the society at present to a mere trade society for mutual protection, so as to accumulate a little funds and have a nucleus for future action." Under these circumstances it was scarcely to be expected that the report presented on this

occasion should be of a very cheerful cast, and its somewhat pathetic character may be judged from the following selected paragraphs :—

In October your Council called a meeting of the members of the society, and also of the chemists and druggists in general, by circular and advertisement, for the purpose of considering the Pharmacy Bill as printed in the *Journal*. At this five attended. When during the year a meeting of the chemists and druggists was held for a purpose affecting their pecuniary interests, then there was a full attendance.

Your Council gladly acknowledge the cheerful aid they have received from many of the members, although, viewing the society as a whole, they regret the apathy manifested. This may arise from the circumstance that since the society's formation it has succeeded in destroying unkindly elements both in and out of the trade, and therefore the members argue that nothing more need be done.

But, notwithstanding this state of affairs, there is no sign of giving in on the part of these fathers of Victorian pharmacy, who continue as follows :—

Your Council would faithfully remind the members of the society, and pharmacists in general, that pharmacy in Victoria needs much developing, and that so long as the present Council exists it will not relinquish this object.

With men of this stamp to lead, success, however long deferred, was an ultimate certainty.

The balance-sheet for the year showed :—Receipts (including balance from previous year, £29 11s. 10d.), £165 16s. 10d; disbursements, £154 17s. 8d; balance in hand, £10 19s. 2d. With the hope of inducing an influx of members, it was decided to reduce the subscription to 2ls. for members, and 10s. 6d. for associates. Messrs. Lewis, Bosisto, Johnson, and Williams, the retiring members of council, were re-elected; and votes of thanks to Dr. Mueller and other gentlemen who had rendered assistance to the society, to Mr. W. Johnson, editor of the *Journal*, and to Mr. Kruse, the hon. secretary, terminated the record of the society's third year of existence.

(*To be continued.*)

NEW AUSTRALIAN PLANTS ;

DESCRIBED BY BARON VON. MUELLER, K.C.M.G., M. & PH.D., F.R.S.

ATBIPLEX CONDUPPLICATA.

Branchlets very thin, almost glabrous; leaves rather small, obovate-or lanceolar-cuneate, entire or slightly denticulated, grey from a very thin indument; staminate and pistillate flowers on the same plant; the former in minute clusters, the latter often scattered, all axillary or becoming lateral; fruiting calyx semiovate-deltoid in outline, sessile, membranous throughout, truncate at the base, expanding into two entire almost erect membranes, the latter nearly as broad as the seed-bearing cavity and surpassing the compressed-conical minutely bilobed summit; seed smooth; radicle bent downward.

In the vicinity of the Darling-River and some of its tributaries; C. King, L. Singleton.

An erect shrub, not tall. Leaves attaining a length of nearly one inch, of rather thin texture. Staminate glomerules situated at the upper part of the branchlets. Fruiting calyces attaining a length and width of half an inch, pale, glabrous, net-veined, almost dimidiated by the surrounding membrane being folded upwards into two halves. Cavity basal, in comparison to the expanding membrane small.

Similar in habit and leaves to *A. halimoides*, but very different as regards fruit, the membranous expansion being almost vertically doubled up, and the seminiferous portion very small and sunk within, while the fruit-calyx of *A. halimoides* is very similar to that of the recently described *Kochia spongicarpa*. The broad basal truncation of the fruit-calyx is quite peculiar to *A. conduplicata*.

A chemical analysis of the various kinds of salt-bushes would be highly desirable for an accurate estimate of their respective nutritive properties, though such is not invariably combined with palatability.

The *Chenopodium triandrum* of New Zealand is transferable to the genus *Rhagodia*.

HAKEA BROOKEANA.

Branchlets robust, scantily silky; leaves rather short, filiform, rigid, pungent, soon glabrous; fruits solitary, almost sessile, ovate-globular, slightly pointed; valves very thick, outside exceedingly rough from protuding angular blunt appressed-downy tubercles; cavity deeply foveolate; seeds roundish-ovate, on the outer side very prominently tuberculated, their membranous appendage narrowly decurrent on both sides.

At or towards Mount Ragged; Miss S. Brooke.

Probably of shrubby growth. Leaves spreading, firm, hardly exceeding an inch in length, if not shorter, always smooth. Flowers unknown. Fruits fully an inch long and nearly as broad, reminding when unopened of those of *Pandanus* though in miniature; cavity about half as broad as the valves. Seeds black, about $\frac{1}{3}$ inch long, the terminal portion of the appendicular membrane as long as the nucleus.

The singular manner in which the surface of the fruit-valves is broke up, giving it a corky appearance, has its counterpart only in *H. pandanocarpa*, which species however produces flat leaves, larger fruits and a seed-membrane passing broadly all around the nucleus, irrespective of likely floral differences, yet to be ascertained.

HAKEA MACRAEANA.

Branchlets glabrous or scantily silky; leaves rather long, thinly filiform, glabrescent, underneath traversed by a slight longitudinal furrow, the apex gradually pointed; umbels usually only 3—6-flowered, almost glabrous; stalklets about as long as the small flowers; style glabrous; stigma lateral; fruit rather large, nearly ovate, very turgid, outside densely verrucular-rough except at the much compressed slightly or not horned summit; seeds almost smooth, their membranous appendage imperfectly decurrent on one side.

Near the sources of the Shoalhaven-River and near the eastern tributaries of the Snowy-River, at elevations of nearly 4000 feet; W. Baeuerlen.

A subalpine species. Leaves 3—5 inches long. Petals $\frac{1}{4}$ — $\frac{1}{3}$ inch long, pale-coloured. Ovary almost sessile, glabrous. Hypogynous gland nearly square. Fruit attaining a length of 1½ inches, the margin of the valves slightly edged along the upper portion. Seeds oblique-ovate, measuring about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in length, shorter than the terminating membrane.

Specifically named in recognition of kind support given by Mr. George MacRae, of Braidwood, to the collector's local botanic travels. This species differs from *H. nodosa* in much longer and never compressed leaves, in somewhat larger flowers fewer in each umbel, in evidently not yellow petals, in bigger and still rougher fruits and in not tuberculated seeds; moreover *H. nodosa* is always a low-lands species. The leaves of *H. Macraeana* are much like those of *H. Persiehana*. The fruit is similar to that of *H. propinqua*, which species however has thicker, much shorter and more rigid leaves not unisulcate beneath and also rougher seeds.

HAKEA PERSIEHANA.

Arborescent; branchlets slender, appressed-downy; leaves long, thinly filiform, glabrescent, their apex gradually pointed; corymbs dense, conspicuously stalked; rachis almost velvet-downy; flowers very small; petals somewhat shorter

than the stalklets, outside silky-downy; style almost glabrous; stigma hemispheric-conical, peltate, quite terminal; hypogynous gland unilateral, adnate; ovary glabrous, nearly sessile; fruit lanceolar-ellipsoid, almost dimidiate-oblique, smooth, short-attenuated at the base, gradually narrowed into the acute apex; terminating membrane of the seed not decurrent along the nucleus.

In the vicinity of the Endeavour-River; W. Persieh.

Leaves attaining a length of seven inches, neither shining nor furrowed, the pointed apex easily wearing off. Peduncles generally about half an inch long. Bracts minute, almost lanceolar, early deciduous. Petals measuring only $\frac{1}{2}$ — $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in full length. Stigma much broader than the summit of the style. Fruit fully an inch long, about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch broad, gently convex, not seen quite ripe. As regards the stalked flower-clusters this species approaches *H. pedunculata* from the same locality, differing however already much in the form of the leaves and the position of the stigma. The last mentioned species is nearly allied to *H. arborescens*, which extends to Port Darwin (Holtze).

The following new localities of species of this genus are particularly noteworthy:—

H. eriantha; Upper Ovens-River, Mrs. M'Cann.

H. saligna; Illawarra, Camera.

H. nitida; near Eucla, J. D. Bate.

H. multilineata; sources of the Arthur-River, Th. Muir; between Youldeh and Ouldabinna, Tietkens; between the Alberga and Mt. Olga, Giles; near Mt. Finke, Mrs. Richards; Gawler-Range, R. T. Sullivan; near Lake Barlee, Hon. J. Forrest; Mt. Sonder, Rev. W. F. Schwarz. Varies with smaller flowers, slender pistil, prominently nerved leaves, beaklike-pointed also unisulate and bulging fruit, as well as almost diagonal position of seeds.

H. Epiglottis; near Circular Head, F. v. M.

H. nodosa; Flinders-Island and North-Eastern Tasmania, Aug. Simson.

H. lorea; near MacDonnell-Range, Lieut. Dittrich.

Victoria.

THE PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA.

THE monthly meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria was held at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, Melbourne, on Wednesday, the 10th November, 1886.

Present—Messrs. Blackett, Brind, Francis, Strutt, and Tompsitt.

The president (Mr. C. R. Blackett) in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

An apology was received from Mr. Owen.

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION.

The following applicants, having furnished the necessary statutory declarations as to their qualifications, were duly registered as pharmaceutical chemists:—

John Bunyan Lillie Mackay, Malvern-road, Toorak; certificate from Pharmaceutical Society of Edinburgh.

Frederick Sheppard Grimwade, Flinders-lane, Melbourne.

The applications of—

Joseph Smith, Simpson's-road;

Geo. Carrighan, Melbourne;

Andrew Smith, Kyneton;

William Parsons, Sandhurst,

were postponed for the personal attendance of the applicants.

IN RE G. A. DIMOCK.

The Board having heard and determined as to whether the applicant was employed as a dispensing assistant, in an open shop, for the compounding and dispensing of the prescriptions of legally qualified medical practitioners, do not find the fact established, and therefore refuse to grant the certificate.

IN THE MATTER OF M. W. BUTLER.

It was resolved to hear and determine the evidence in support of this application at the next meeting of the Board, on the 8th December.

APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINERS.

The following gentlemen were appointed examiners for the College Certificates at the December examinations:—Chemistry, Mr. C. R. Blackett (acting); *materia medica*, Mr. H. Francis; botany, Mr. D. M'Alpine. Mr. A. H. Jackson was also appointed, *ex officio*, examiner in each subject.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

THE monthly meeting of the Council was held at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, Melbourne, on Friday, 12th November, 1886.

Present—Messrs. Brinsmead, Nelson, Baker, Harrison, Huntsman, Kingsland, and Tompsitt.

The vice-president, Mr. J. Brinsmead, in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Apologies were received from Messrs. Blackett and Gamble.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

The following new members were balloted for and duly elected:—

Henry De Baere, Beaufort.

J. T. Ernst, Brunswick-street, Fitzroy.

NEW MEMBERS NOMINATED.

G. Bonnington, Christchurch, New Zealand.

J. A. Pond, Auckland.

C. Pye, New South Wales.

W. H. Sowter, Adelaide, South Australia.

Joseph Smith, Numurkah.

Mr. E. J. Tookey, of North Adelaide, forwarded his resignation, and also the certificate of membership, which were accepted.

THE INTERCOLONIAL PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

Mr. Huntsman, the delegate to the Conference from the society, laid on the table a report of the resolutions agreed to at the meeting, which will be discussed at the next meeting of the Council. Mr. Huntsman reported that the whole of the programme, as laid down by the provisional committee, had been carried out in a highly successful manner.

PRESENTATION FROM THE DELEGATES.

The hon. secretary reported that the sum of ten pounds had been subscribed by the following delegates:—Messrs. Pond, Bonnington, Potts, Fairthorne, Ash, Sowter, Scammell, Melhuish, Mayne, and Bozon, and handed to the society for the purpose of purchasing a presentation of books for the library in commemoration of the Conference.

THE DEFENCE FUND.

A letter was read from Mr. Chamberlain, hon. secretary of the South Suburban Chemists' Association, urging on the Council the urgent necessity of a fund being formed to be applied to the protection of the trade interests, and also stating that the South Suburban Association would give all the assistance in their power.

After some discussion, it was resolved that a committee, consisting of Messrs. Huntsman, Harrison, and the hon. secretary, be appointed to draw up a circular on the subject, to be forwarded to every pharmacist in business in Victoria, asking for their co-operation and assistance.

THE INDIAN AND COLONIAL EXHIBITION.

A letter was received from the acting secretary, asking that the exhibits of the society might be presented to the proposed Colonial Institute. It was resolved that the request be complied with.

THE MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

THE annual meeting of the above society was held on Thursday, the 28th October, at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, the president, Dr. Ralph, occupying the chair. The secretary read the committee's annual report, which showed that the society was in a fairly prosperous condition, financially and otherwise. It was mentioned in the report that, with a view to encourage the formation of a thoroughly representative collection of mounted microscopic objects, the committee had purchased a cabinet capable of containing 1200 slides, and members were asked to contribute specimens, more especially of such objects as were used in the illustration of papers read before the society. The gentlemen nominated at the preceding meeting as officers and committee for the ensuing year were duly declared elected, namely, as president, Dr. Ralph; vice-presidents, Messrs. F. Barnard and A. H. S. Lucas; treasurer, Mr. R. G. Haig; secretary, Mr. W. M. Bale; committee, Messrs. J. Gabriel, J. Lindsay, J. O. Moody, W. Ball, and C. A. Topp. The president then delivered his annual address, which mainly consisted of a retrospect of microscopical literature, commencing with Hooke's "Micrographia," which was published by the Royal Society in the year 1660, and dealing very fully with the great increase in the number of works devoted to microscopical science, which took place soon after the successful application of the achromatic principle to the microscope about 1840. The progress of the science of microscopy, as exemplified in section-cutting, staining processes, and other methods of histological research, was briefly spoken of, and the address, which was listened to with interest and attention, concluded with some personal reminiscences of some of the well-known pioneers of accurate microscopical research, including Rainey, Bowerbank, Quekett, Owen, Forbes, and others less celebrated.

SCIENTILEGIUM.*

BY ALFRED H. JACKSON, B.Sc., F.C.S., M.P.S., &c., Director of the College of Pharmacy, Melbourne.

THE ORIGIN OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.

THIS was the topic broadly and impartially handled by Sir J. William Dawson, C.M.G., LL.D., F.R.S., &c., in his presidential address at the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, held in Birmingham on the 1st September, 1886.

Sir J. W. Dawson illustrated the cooling of our globe by the drying of a plum or peach. There were the three parts—a solid core, corresponding to the stone; a viscid zone, analogous to the pulp; and a crust, represented by the skin of the fruit. And as a plum shrivels in process of drying, so did our earth wrinkle whilst cooling. He inclines to the belief that the centre of the

* Omitted from last issue owing to pressure of other matter.

earth is a heavy solid, surrounded by a liquid zone of basic rock (trachytic); then by an outer layer of a lighter and acid rock (basaltic); the whole enclosed by a crust, the wrinkles on whose surface are mountains.

In very ancient times (Laurentian) the Atlantic Ocean was supported on a floor of gneiss, or of some rock which became gneissose. As the earth cooled it contracted; this shrinkage led to the folding and crushing of parts of the crust. In those early Laurentian days the earth's wrinkles rose above the surface in broad belts, foreshadowing the positions of the mountain ranges of Western Europe and Eastern America. Various denudating agents then carved out these old crystalline rocks, whose detritus, piled along the margins of the Atlantic, formed the stratified deposits of Paleozoic times. Sir J. Wm. Dawson thinks that too much is ascribed to the action of vast continental glaciers; he thinks that masses of floating ice are more probable agents for many of the phenomena said to be due to continental glaciers, and that moraines are the debris of ice-drifts during a period of great submergence.

The Atlantic is in about the same position now that it always has been. At one period it has overspread areas that are now continental; at another period it has been contracted within more narrow boundaries by the elevation of marginal land. Thus, in the age of the Coal measures swampy flats extended into the shallow parts of the Atlantic; whereas in the Chalk age it is probable that the American continent stretched out farther seawards than it does now. Finally, Sir William is of opinion that Europe and America were probably connected by Greenland, Lapland, the Faroes, &c. In these Arctic regions was supplied the pre-Cambrian land which furnished the sediments whose partial metamorphosis

supplied the upper Laurentian and Huronian formations.

QUICK BOILING.

Mr. T. Fletcher, of Warrington, England, has given an account, before the Gas Institute of London, of some successful experiments in modifying the usual plane surfaces of pans, boilers, &c., so as to heat water quicker than hitherto. When a flat-bottomed pan of cold water is set on a gas flame, there is a large surface of the pan bottom which is not heated by the gas, because there is a film of unburnt gases preventing contact between the flame and the metal of the pan bottom. This may be proved by pasting a piece of paper on the pan bottom, and it will remain uncharred, showing that the pan bottom and the flame at that part are not heated to 400° F. Mr. Fletcher proposes to corrugate the outer surfaces of the bottoms of pans and kettles, &c., as he finds that with a series of projecting rods on the bottom of a kettle he could boil the same quantity of water in half the time that a flat-bottomed kettle required. This is due to the projections, corrugations, or rods becoming so hot as to be in contact with the flame, and so more heat is conveyed in a shorter time to the water in the kettle. For large boilers, such as the Lancashire boiler, Mr. Fletcher has been experimentally successful in the use of longitudinal webs, rolled on to the boiler plates of the flues, and in the line of direction of the flame.

PIPITZAHOIC ACID.

History.—This substance was discovered by Professor Rio de la Loza and analysed by Weld. Subsequently Dr. Schaffner discovered the plant itself and named it. His specimens came into the possession of Mr. Vigener, a German pharmacist, who again drew attention to it. Its chemical investigation was then taken up by Messrs. Auschütz, Leather, and Mylius, whose researches are printed in the *Journ. Chem. Soc.* and the *Berichte*.

Source.—Hitherto it has only been found in the roots of *Trixis pipitzahuac*—natural order, Composite—a plant growing in Mexico. It is contained in large

cylindrical, intercellular passages, which are limited to the sieve tubes of the vascular bundles, three or four occurring in each of the bundles. It probably represents a product of metastasis, of no further use in the plant, similar to the etherial oils in the resin canals of the umbelliferae.

Preparation.—Six kilogrammes of finely-powdered *Radix pereziæ*, rich in glucose, were boiled for half an hour on the water bath with ten times their weight of alcohol. The solution poured off from the insoluble residue was filtered, and about nine-tenths of the alcohol distilled off. The mass was again treated with alcohol twice more. The concentrated alcoholic extract was poured into five or six times its weight of water at 50° C., whereby 3½ per cent. pipitzahoic acid was precipitated. It can be recrystallised from dilute alcohol or benzine.

Characters.—It consists of golden-yellow flat plates, melting at 103° C, and subliming easily. It distils with steam, but it is decomposed by protracted boiling with water. It dissolves readily in alcohol, ether, chloroform, glacial acetic acid and benzine; it is also somewhat soluble in light petroleum. Hot glacial acetic acid appears to decompose it.

Composition.— $C_{15}H_{19}(O_2).OH$. It probably contains monohydroxybenzoquinone with two side-chains, of which the one is a hydrocarbon radicle of the formula C_nH_{2n+1} , the other a hydrocarbon radicle of the formula C_nH_{2n-1} ; and one of the side-chains will contain a pair of doubly-linked carbon-atoms.

Use.—It acts as an energetic purgative, without any disagreeable results.

The Month.

THE estate of Dr. Robert Peel, of Collins-street, Melbourne, medical practitioner, was compulsorily sequestrated in the Insolvency Court on the 28th of October.

THE quarterly examinations under the Pharmacy Act will take place the first week in December. A large number of candidates are expected to present themselves.

THE following honour appears in the London *Gazette* :—Frederick M'Coy, Professor of Geology, Melbourne University, Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

WE learn by cablegram that Mr. Joseph Bosisto, C.M.G., the President of the Victorian Commission for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, and Mr. James Thomson, the secretary, have been entertained at a banquet.

WE have been requested to state that an error has been made in describing Mr. J. A. Pond as the only public analyst in New Zealand. Mr. Pond is the analyst for the Auckland district only, Canterbury, Wellington, and Dunedin having each a resident analyst.

THE esteemed President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, Mr. William Bowen, left England on his return journey to Australia in the P. and O. steamer *Shannon* on the 8th October, and may be expected to arrive in Melbourne about the 20th November.

MR. JAMES W. SMITH, chemist, Footscray, reported to the police on Saturday, the 30th October, that two men stuck him up near the Punt Hotel, close to the Saltwater River, and robbed him of £45 in notes and gold; also a gold watch and albert and a gold pin, valued at £30. He was injured slightly about the face through the violence used. The complainant's breast pin was afterwards found by the police near where the robbers, who are described as young men of the larrikin type, committed the offence.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of the Odontological Society was held on Thursday, the 7th October. There was a good attendance. Mr. M'Intyre contributed a paper on some incidents of practice, and Mr. J. Cumming read one on "Ancient Dentistry, Historical and Anecdotal," which was listened to with great interest.

SOME 86 cases of brandy, which were recently brought from Marseilles by the s.s. *Sydney*, have been seized, by direction of the Central Board of Health. Samples analysed by Mr. C. R. Blackett, Acting Government analyst, were described as "below the standard, and not of the quality or character of genuine brandy," and Mr. Blackett added that he did not consider the liquor should be allowed to go into consumption.

THE Government agricultural chemist (Mr. A. N. Pearson) has found, in the course of his analyses of soils, that the land cultivated by market gardeners of old standing is usually very rich in manurial matters, which are locked up, however, in a slowly accessible condition. He recommends a regular application of quick or slaked lime, at the rate of 3cwt. to the acre, in place of manure, as the best means of liberating the manurial properties and making them accessible. Its use should be continued for some years; in fact, until the land begins to show the want of more manure.

IT was stated in a telegram published in the *Argus* that Dr. M. Perceval, of St. Kilda, had been elected resident surgeon of the Clunes District Hospital. The announcement having been brought under the notice of the Central Board of Health, the secretary sent a letter to the committee of the Clunes Hospital informing them that Dr. Perceval was not eligible for the appointment, being unregistered. Section 13 of the Medical Practitioners Act prohibits any unregistered practitioner from holding an appointment as physician, surgeon, or medical officer in any hospital, and certificates signed by an unregistered practitioner are declared by the same section to be illegal.

THE Director of the College of Pharmacy has much pleasure in acknowledging the following additions to the Museum:—A specimen of cortex larinis, from Mr. C. R. Blackett; specimens—prepared by Mr. L. R. Scammel, F.C.S.—of a soft resin and the essential oil of sandal wood. Mr. Scammel treats the wood from Western Australia with carbon disulphide, which dissolves out 7 per cent. of oleo-resin from the root, or 5 per cent. from the trunk. This oleo-resin is then distilled under pressure, and yields 2 per cent. of the essential oil, of fine quality, and a viscid, brown resin. Mr. Scammel reports that Dr. Alexander Henry, of Adelaide, has tried the resin in his practice, and finds it to be more active therapeutically than the usual essential oil; so that, as Mr. Scammel wishes to bring it prominently under the notice of the profession, he will be glad to send a sample to any practitioner desirous of testing its efficacy.

IN the Legislative Assembly, on Wednesday, 20th October, Dr. Rose moved the second reading of a bill to provide for the registration of dentists. It was proposed by the bill to appoint a board to conduct examinations and grant certificates subject to provisions made by the Governor in Council. The board would consist of six members, half of whom should be medical practitioners and half dentists. It was also provided that a register should be kept containing an alphabetical list of names of *bonâ-fide* dentists, who should receive certificates enabling them to obtain fees, and sue for the same. Any man who used the terms dentist, dental practitioner, or dental surgeon, without being duly qualified under this bill, would be liable to a penalty. Chemists who had hitherto practised as dentists would occupy the position of being registered under the bill the same as other dentists. After the passing of the bill, however, it would be absolutely necessary that every person to be registered under the Act should

pass a *bonâ-fide* examination. The Deputy-Speaker said that, as one of the clauses of the bill provided for the imposition of fees, the bill had been wrongly introduced. It should have been preceded by a message from the Crown. Dr. Rose said he had been treated very unfairly in regard to this bill. He did not refer to the ruling, but he submitted the bill to the clerk a considerable time ago. The Deputy-Speaker said this had been the only opportunity of giving a ruling. Now that the ruling had been given, the hon. member could obtain all the information required from the clerk, and no time would be lost. The bill was discharged.

New South Wales.

THINGS are much better in Sydney this month than last. Business, which has been very quiet for some months past, seems to be reviving again, though there is not much to report on in connection with pharmacy. Mr. L. Whittle, son of Mr. Whittle, chemist, Sturt-street, Ballarat, has purchased the business of Mr. John M'Donald, of Taree, Manning River.

The adjourned meeting of the Pharmaceutical Council was held on Friday, 22nd October, when, at the express desire of Messrs. Bozon and Mayne, Mr. M'Carthy, in the absence of Mr. Abraham, proposed that Mr. Bozon be appointed an additional delegate to represent New South Wales at the Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sadler, no one else being present that could well do so. The programme for the Pharmaceutical Conference, drawn up by Messrs. Melhuish and Mayne, was then submitted to the council, and agreed to.

The various Friendly Societies are busy making preparations for the opening of the dispensary mentioned in last month's *Journal of Pharmacy*.

Owing to Tuesday, 9th November, being the Prince of Wales' Birthday and a public holiday, no meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society took place.

Mr. P. J. Edmunds delivered a very useful and interesting lecture under the auspices of the Technical College, at Technical Hall, Sydney, on Friday evening, 22nd October; the subject being—"Lead and its Uses."

Mr. Edwin Quayle, the lecturer to the Pharmaceutical Society's students here, has been appointed to the Chair of Chemistry in the University of Sydney during the absence on leave of Professor Liversidge, who purposed visiting Europe next year, chiefly in order to make himself more practically acquainted with the changes which have been taking place in the great European and American centres of scientific work and thought, and more especially the radical changes which are being made in the methods of teaching practical chemistry.

We hear that Mr. S. Lester, of Elizabeth-street, is fitting up dispensaries for the following:—Mr. MacDonald, at Strathfield; Mr. T. M. Clements, at Newtown; and Mr. Mills, at North Shore.

Dr. Le Gay Brereton, the well-known medical practitioner and *litterateur*, late of Gladsville, died on the 28th October.

Dr. W. F. Mackenzie, one of the principal physicians in Sydney, and the chief medical referee for the Australian Mutual Provident Society, died rather suddenly on Thursday evening, the 14th October.

A large number of ladies and gentlemen and pharmacists of Sydney assembled at No. 3 Jetty, Circular Quay, on Saturday, the 23rd October, to bid *bon voyage* to Mr. T. B. Melhuish (one of the two delegates specially appointed by the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales), who left by the *Orient* steamer on that day for Melbourne.

The report of an expert upon the exhibit of tobacco from New South Wales in the Colonial and Indian Exhibition is to the effect that it is strong and rank in quality.

A mysterious epidemic has recently broken out amongst the swine in the Wagga Wagga district, one owner having lost twenty in one night, and another six fine animals, all of which died within an hour. It was at first thought that poisoning by some noxious weed was the cause of their death, but it now seems evident that the disease is allied to the Cumberland disease, which is so disastrous to cattle.

South Australia.

THE monthly meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia was held on 2nd November, at King William-street. Present:—The president (Mr. Harrison) in the chair, and Messrs. Wood, Parker, Eyre, Main, O'Connell, Hill, Woodman, Grummett, Young, and White.

Some applications for membership were brought forward, but in reference to these the president pointed out that, according to the rules of the Society, membership could only be gained by examination, after 1st September. Some members present expressed regret that greater leniency had not been shown to those chemists in business, or possessing long experience in pharmacy, who had neglected to join the Society in time past, while others thought that ample time had been given, as for a year previous to the 1st September those in business, and assistants possessing sufficient experience, had opportunity of connecting themselves with the Society.

Mr. White proposed Mr. A. H. H. Horton for membership, as being eligible under Rule 5 of the Society.

A letter from Mr. Luther Scammell, jun., one of the delegates to the Conference, was read, in which he expressed appreciation of the kind reception met with, and satisfaction with the Conference generally; but it was thought best to defer the consideration of these matters until the return of the delegates, when a special meeting could be called, and their report discussed by a more representative gathering of members, who would also then be better informed on the details of the Conference and visit to Melbourne.

Mr. Hill moved that the motion passed at the special meeting held to consider Mrs. Brady's case be rescinded. Seconded by Mr. Grummett, and carried.

A letter was read from the secretary of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, expressing the desire that chemists in South Australia would become members, and requesting papers on subjects of scientific and pharmaceutical interest.

In reference to the paper on pharmaceutical history which Mr. Hill proposed to give, Mr. Grummett moved—"That Mr. Hill be desired to read his paper at the general meeting, to be held in December next." Seconded by Mr. Braddock, and carried.

Mr. Parker moved, and Mr. White seconded—"That notice of general meetings and business be given in daily papers." Carried.

The official meeting then terminated, and afterwards an informal meeting of chemists was held to consider Mrs. Brady's case, reference to which was made in Mr. Hill's motion, mentioned above. The facts of the case are as follow:—Mary Maud Brady, late matron of Wangaratta Hospital, practises as a chemist, at Petersburgh. Some time ago a woman named Mrs. Rabbick was brought into her shop, apparently suffering from a fit. Mrs. Brady administered ammonia by olfaction, and was going to give some in water internally, but Mrs. Rabbick's teeth were set, and she swallowed none. The patient revived somewhat under this treatment, and such methods as brandy and water, hot applications, mustard, etc., externally; and on his arrival her husband was told to obtain medical aid at once. Dr. Abrahamowski came, and said nothing should have been given. He never spoke of danger, and, after examination, did not attribute the state of the patient to the ammonia that had been administered, but placed it to the fit. He gave her various medicines, but after some hours the woman died. The doctor was telephoned five hours before death to say that Mrs. Rabbick was no better, and that severe vomiting was present, and is said to have received message, but he denies receipt. Mrs. Brady, who was present at the *post mortem* examination, states that she saw no redness in throat. The doctor said that the heart was flabby, liver large and not natural colour, and that there were traces of old disease of lungs, and summed up at inquest that the ammonia administered was the cause of death. The above is the substance of Mrs. Brady's statement, whether correct or not remains to be proved; but the general feeling seems to be that she is not guilty of the charge of manslaughter, which is brought against her on the verdict of the jury, through the evidence of Dr. Abrahamowski.

As she does not seem able to provide herself with legal aid, it was thought by some to be the duty of the Society to take it up, and a special meeting was called, at which it was resolved "that those present form themselves into a committee to collect subscriptions," with the object of rendering assistance; but, as Mr. Hill and several others pointed out, it was really not a case for the Society to interfere in, as neither Mrs. nor Mr. Brady (who is now in Victoria) are members, and for this and other reasons it was desirable to rescind the motion passed at the special meeting. This, as stated, was done, and then the matter discussed unofficially, and the chemists present resolved that Mr. Hartley be requested to receive subscriptions and forward them to the proper quarter. Mr. Hartley acceded, and took the matter in hand so vigorously that he soon gathered sufficient funds, so that Mrs. Brady will now have proper legal help, and we sincerely hope that the truth, whatever it may be, will be established.

On 27th October, a lad, living at Glanville, attempted to destroy himself by taking half a packet of Battle's Vermin Killer, which he had purchased the previous evening from Mr. Hanson, chemist, Port Adelaide. He mixed the poison with butter, spread it on bread, and ate it in the early morning. His friends found him lying on the kitchen floor, and at once sent for a doctor, who adopted such measures as led to the lad's ultimate recovery.

Another poisoning case occurred recently at Sydenham-road, Norwood, when a man employed on H.M.S. *Protector*, on returning to his home, drank some nitric acid in mistake for whisky. He had been drinking previous to his return. Dr. Hayward was summoned, but the man died.

A meeting of the senate of the University of Adelaide was held on 20th October to consider the regulations for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine. The warden (Mr. F. Chapple, B.A., B.Sc.) occupied the chair. Dr. Whittell moved—"That the regulations be adopted;" and, in the course of his remarks, stated that the school of medicine had been a success, although the teaching only extended at present over two years of the curriculum. It was to be regretted that other universities should get the credit of what was begun at Adelaide, and it was now proposed that a complete medical education for the above degree should be given in this colony, as it was believed that financial and other difficulties had been surmounted.

Dr. E. W. Way seconded the motion.

Dr. Davies Thomas felt grave doubts whether the extension of the medical school was desirable. There were three grave objections:—1st. It was not necessary in the interests of the public, because there were more doctors arriving than were required. 2nd. The small population of the colony was not sufficient to support a medical school. 3rd. It would be almost impracticable to fully equip a medical school in accordance with modern requirements. Dr. Thomas then entered into the details of obstacles to a complete course of medical instruction, but said, among other things, that he thought no better instruction for the first two years could be obtained elsewhere, although a museum of anatomy was wanted, a need which was not likely to be supplied for years to come.

The Rev. W. Carr, M.A., supported the motion. He believed that a medical school such as that proposed would prove of great benefit to the community.

Dr. Stirling spoke in favour of the motion, and combated the objections that had been raised.

The motion was carried.

Three or four local chemists have visited Teetulpa goldfields, some with holiday intentions, others with business projects. The field seems likely to prove permanent, and will probably repay the pharmacist who is enterprising enough to commence his business there.

New Zealand.

THE PHARMACY BOARD OF NEW ZEALAND.

THE following candidates for the office of member of the Pharmacy Board of New Zealand were elected on the 2nd day of November, 1886:—George Bonnington, Christchurch, nominated by J. M. Cumbridge and William P. Price; John Valentine Ross, Christchurch, nominated by W. P. Townsend and W. R. Cooke; Emil Christian Skog, Christchurch, nominated by A. Dempster and John Berry; Charles James Wilson, Christchurch, nominated by E. C. Dunn and J. Briggs; James Alexander Pond, Auckland, nominated by G. Aickin and James P. King; George Mee, Wellington, nominated by H. Brittain and C. D. Barrund; Thomas Merritt Wilkinson, Dunedin, nominated by M. Marshall and Barnard Isaacs. The Board is elected for three years, the head-quarters of the first being at Wellington, from June, 1881, to December, 1883. The

head-quarters of the Board whose term of office has just expired was at Auckland, and the next Board will have its head-quarters at Christchurch. Among the present members, which form the number required by the Board, Messrs. J. Bonnington, of Christchurch, and Pond, of Auckland, are the only members of the expiring Board. Messrs. Ross, of Christchurch, and Wilkinson, of Dunedin, were members of the first Board.

A proposal to get up a public testimonial to Miss Houston, who was acquitted of being concerned in the Timaru poisoning case, is meeting with considerable favour in Christchurch.

Notes from Foreign Journals.

IN an article on the Victorian Court at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition the *Pharmaceutical Journal* (18th September) writes:—The opium poppy appears to grow very luxuriantly in Victoria, specimens brought to the Exhibition by Mr. Bosisto being over six feet high. At present sufficient opium is not made in the colony for home consumption, although protected by a tax of 20s. per lb. levied on foreign opium. In colour, odour, and "touch" the Australian opium is superior to most of the Turkey opium of commerce, and contains on an average 10 per cent. of morphia in the fresh, or 11·5 per cent. in the dried opium. The excellent quality of this commodity leads to the hope that the time may yet come when this colony will supply the opium at present imported from foreign countries. The chief difficulty is the expense of labour.

PATENT MEDICINES.—In reply to the query, "What means can be employed to discourage physicians from prescribing the copyrighted proprietary nostrums so extensively advertised in the medical journals?" the *National Druggist* writes:—"The remedy to discourage physicians in prescribing such stuff, which is available, is for the pharmacist to be untiring in his efforts to lay before the medical profession also cases where, to his knowledge, fraud is practised; to use, also, his best endeavours to spread the knowledge of pharmacy among medical men, who can only profit thereby. The more the medical practitioner acquaints himself with pharmacy, the fewer nostrums is he liable to prescribe—he will learn the necessity of formulating the remedies himself, and not allow ignorance or pretension to do it for him."

FROM the *American Druggist* we learn that the Medical Society of the district of Leipzig and the Association of Pharmacists of Leipzig and surrounding districts recently held a convention for the purpose of taking some action against the spread or encouragement of secret remedies, at which the following regulations were adopted:—(1) It is the business of physicians to cure the sick; that of the pharmacists to prepare the medicines. (2 a) The physicians pledge themselves not to recommend any secret remedies to their patients. (2 b) The pharmacists agree not to issue any announcements or bombastic advertisements of secret remedies, nor to attach their own or their firm's name to such as mention the diseases or complaints the remedy is supposed to cure. (3) The patronage given by physicians to wholesale houses is to be antagonised in every possible way, as being opposed to the public interest.

WRITING of the Holloway College, a London paper says:—"Strange as it may seem, pills are the favourite form of ornamentation within and without the college. The first and last thing that one discovers in the distant view of the building is the gilded pill carried by the lightning-conductor at the apex. As one gets closer one finds pills stuck about everywhere. At the principal gateway a gigantic pill seems struggling out of its box at the top of each gate-

post; and as one stands in the stalls of the chapel, one's hand involuntarily rests on a bolus. Perhaps, however, this is unintentional. 'If you leave out a wart or a scar I won't pay you a shilling,' Cromwell is reported to have said to Cooper when drawing his portrait. Now, the late Mr. Holloway, among his other virtues, was credited with a similar sort of truthfulness. Can the pills on his college have been the result of an injunction to his architect?"

A RUMOUR has reached me from more than one quarter, writes "Paracelsus" in the *B. and C. Druggist*—but the degree of credence to be attached to it I cannot assess—to the effect that artificial quinine may be obtained by the reaction of salicylic acid upon the product of a certain animal secretion. If there be anything in this, we ought to discover how to make quinine in our own bodies by judicious administration of the acid, and thus get the benefit of the alkaloid in its nascent condition.

THE *Lancet* states that Naphthalin is recommended by Dr. Coriander, of Samarkand, as a valuable and economical remedy for worms, both *tænia* and *ascarides*. He gives children of from one to three years of age 2 or 3 grains twice a day. In the case of adults he gives from 20 to 80 grains a day in powder, with sugar.

IN chronicling the death, on 5th August, of Philo Carpenter, who is claimed as the first person having a drug store in Chicago, the (New York) *Pharmaceutical Record* writes:—"None of the statements we have seen give the date of his location there, but his birthplace was Savoy, Mass., in 1805, and in 1828 we hear of him as a drug clerk in Troy. His location in Chicago dates somewhere about 1830. With an excellent reputation in business, both as a druggist and merchant, he rapidly prospered. Investments in real estate made him a wealthy citizen; and, identified with temperance, education, anti-slavery, and religious liberty, he was honoured and beloved through his long and useful life."

Notes on Society Meetings.

AT a recent meeting of the Council of the Ontario College of Pharmacy, the position under the Ontario Pharmacy Act of medical men keeping branch stores formed a subject of discussion. It was complained that, although it was a straining of the law for a doctor to keep open a drug store, other than that necessary for the supply of medicines to his patients, there were some cases in which medical men opened branch shops, and placed these under the management of unqualified persons. It was finally decided to bring a test case before the law courts.

AT the annual meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association, in September, the association expressed itself in favour of having formulæ printed upon all patent medicine wrappers, and of urging the members of the American Medical Association to stop prescribing nostrums of unknown composition. It was announced that the commissioner of agriculture had expressed his readiness to do experimental work in connection with the cultivation of medicinal plants, and a committee was appointed to draw up a list of those considered most desirable.

AT a meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland on 1st September, a letter was read from Mr. George L. McCormack, of Monkstown, urging the Council to establish a School of Pharmacy for the better training of pharmaceutical students. The writer urged that instead of asking members of the Society to contribute £1000, they should begin in a moderate way with a room, benches, bottles, &c., at a cost of about £60. If the cost could not be provided in any other way Government should be petitioned for the money. During the

discussion which ensued, Sir George Owens remarked that every day men came up at the Apothecaries' Hall for examination who were grossly ignorant as to the making of tinctures, masses, and other preparations. The excuse they made was—"We get them ready made from druggists." It was eventually decided to inform Mr. M'Cormack that the subject had been already considered by the Council, but that the support promised by the pharmacists of Ireland to the establishment of the school had not justified their proceeding further in the matter, and that they had no funds which they could allocate to the purpose.

At a meeting of the British Association, at Birmingham, on 6th September, it was decided, in response to an invitation from the New South Wales Government, to send out representatives to Sydney at the commencement of 1888, on the occasion of the centenary of the colony. Sir H. E. Roscoe, F.R.S., was elected president of the meeting to be held next year at Manchester.

Correspondence.

Our columns are open to all. We do not, however, hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our correspondents.

ANALYSIS OF HOMEOPATHIC MEDICINES.

To the Editor of the Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Edward Geo. Owen, having given vent to his splenic composition on quackery and the B.P. preparations in your last issue, I beg you will allow me space in your next to ask Mr. Owen if he can name "the many preparations of the B.P. which are known by the name of the ingredient of which they contain least." Having made the assertion, he need not fear treading harder "on the corns" of the drug trade generally with which he is on such "very friendly terms."

Perhaps, at the same time, he would favour with some process for an analysis which will enable one to certify to either the "special strength or purity" of the Homeopathic mineral tinctures, which, I believe, contain one grain in 13-1601 gallons, and might safely be labelled "Dilute Spirits of Wine," so as to act up to the Chinese motto of "We don't cheat here."

If Mr. Owen thinks to defend his Homeopathic remedies, quack or otherwise, at the expense of the British Pharmacopœia or Allopathic Pharmacy, I venture to think that "that's where he'll make a mistake."

I question the ability of anyone to give satisfactory replies to the above queries, but if Mr. Owen can do so it will certainly be "much to his advantage."—I am, sir, yours respectfully,

PAUL HENNE SMITH.

South Melbourne, 10th November, 1886.

To the Editor of the Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.

SIR,—In reference to my query asking Mr. Johnson if he would favour with the method of analysing the infinitesimals which he has certified to as containing "the exact proportions and qualities they are represented to be," Mr. Johnson has not yet replied, evidently owing to his illness, otherwise I am sure his well-known courtesy would have prompted him to do so at once. In the meanwhile a champion appears in the person of Mr. E. Owen, who passes the question, and attempts to raise a false issue by abusing everybody and everything, including the B.P. As I have nothing to do with Mr. Owen in the matter, I do not propose to reply to his communication, but request you will kindly renew the favour of allowing me to ask through your columns how an analysis can be made of the Homeopathic tinctures of silica, stannum, mercurious, which are evidently included in Mr. Johnson's certificate? I shall be pleased to learn from any subscriber how to obtain even a trace, let alone the exact proportions, of the supposed remedy.

Trusting you will grant this the same publicity as you have previously done—Enclosing my card, I am, sir, very truly yours,

F. M. S.

Richmond, 15th November, 1886.

THE Customs department, Tasmania, has made a seizure of 50lbs. of opium, which was found in the possession of a Chinaman who has a shop in Hobart. It is supposed it was brought by the *Acacia* from Melbourne.

Poisoning Cases.

SOME months ago, writes the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, a very remarkable case of poisoning of several children occurred at Nottingham, which attracted considerable attention at the time, because of a suspicion that some mistake had been made in the preparation of a medicine that had been given to the children for whooping cough. This was a mixture containing almond oil, syrup of violets, ipecacuanha wine, and syrup of squills. Two of the children who had taken it died, and the symptoms were of such a nature that it was at first supposed the fatal effect might have been due to digitalis. A very careful inquiry was instituted by the medical man holding the office of public analyst for the borough of Nottingham, and it was eventually ascertained that there was no ground for supposing that any mistake been made in preparing the medicine. . . . Of the other cardiac poisons which cause a final arrest of the heart in systole, most of them may be excluded from consideration in this case, as being most unlikely to be found in a chemist's shop, perhaps with the exception of *Convallaria majalis*. It has been suggested that some bulbs of this plant may have been accidentally mixed with the squills used in making the syrup. But Dr. Truman doubts the probability, and he concludes that the toxic agent was really syrup of squills of exceptional strength, though no evidence of want of care in preparing it could be found.

THE *American Pharmacist* reprints from the *Druggists' Circular* an account of a death at San Antonio, Tex., through a mistake on the part of a pharmacist, who dispensed two ounces of a solution supposed to contain Epsom salts, but which was in reality a concentrated preparation of chloral hydrate. The pharmacist stated that the fatal accident occurred by reason of the poison bottle being in an unaccustomed place, an assistant having, while relabelling, placed the chloral by the side of the solution of Epsom salts. The bottles were alike, and the dispenser either failed to look at the label or to realise its import.

AT Wigan, England, recently, a mother, on the recommendation of a neighbour, infused several poppyheads, and gave a sick child some of the infusion, as the result of which it died. The *post mortem* examination showed that death was due to opium poisoning, and the jury returned a verdict to that effect.

A LITTLE boy aged three years, a son of Mr. Wm. Fisher, of Megunga, got hold of a box of wax matches, and sucked the heads of a number of them before being discovered. As he showed no immediate symptoms of poisoning, the anxiety of the parents was somewhat relieved. About 24 hours after he had sucked the matches, he became very ill, and though a doctor was at once called in, medical skill was of no avail, as the boy expired in a few hours.

Publications Received.

CONTRIBUTION to Pharmacy from Queensland, by Joseph Banc oft, M.D.

Life Histories of Plants, by Professor D. M'Alpine. London: Swan, Sonneuschem, Lowrey and Co., Paternoster-square. A detailed notice of this excellent book will appear in our next issue.

Hand-book of New Zealand, with maps and plates, by James Hector, M.D., C.M.G., &c.

Inaugural Address at the Eighteenth Meeting of the Auckland Institute, by J. A. Pond, Colonial Analyst.

The Twenty-second Annual Report of the Alumni Association, Philadelphia.

THE DIARY FOR 1887.

THE Diary of the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy* will be issued early in December, and will be sent gratis to the members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia and to all subscribers to the *Journal* whose names appear on our subscribers' list on the 30th November, 1886.

It is the aim of the compilers to make a thoroughly colonial publication containing a large amount of news specially adapted to Australasian pharmacists.

Intending subscribers should send in their names at once to the Publisher, *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy*, Swanston-street, Melbourne.

Personalities.

MR. CHARLES BUTCHER, representing Messrs. Elliott Brothers, Sydney, spent a day or two in Melbourne on his return from Tasmania.

MR. W. SHEPPERSON, representing Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome and Co., of London, has just arrived in Melbourne from South Africa, and expects to make another tour through the colonies. Mr. Shepperson has opened an office at Planet Chambers, Collins-street, Melbourne.

MR. FRANCIS FORREST has once more returned to Melbourne from London, where he has been representing the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy* for the society. Mr. Forrest is opening a branch house at 132 Collins-street west for Messrs. A. and F. Pears, it being their intention to supply the whole of Australasia with their soap from the Melbourne dépôt. Mr. Forrest will also continue to act as agent for Messrs. W. J. Bush and Co., Thompson, Millard and Co. (Limited), Allen and Hanburys, Clarke, Nickolls and Cornby, and the Butler Hard Rubber Company, of New York; and will open show-rooms at the above address for the display of their samples. Mr. Reginald Quesnel, who has made several trips to the colonies, joins Mr. Forrest, the title of the new firm being Francis Forrest and Co.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

STILES.—On the 21st October, at Swan-street, Richmond, the wife of James Stiles, chemist, of a son.

PIKE.—On the 1st November, at Hopkins-street, Footscray, the wife of Percival Pike, chemist, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

EDDIE—THOMAS.—On the 27th October, at St. Columb's Church, Hawthorn, by the Rev. S. Armstrong. John Alexander Eddie, London Chartered Bank, Wangaratta, to Ivak, eldest daughter of J. Turner Thomas, Hawthorn.

HOLDSWORTH—HATTAM.—On the 12th October, by the Rev. S. McCann, Edward Lancashire Holdsworth to Charity, the second daughter of the late Henry Hattam, Esq., both of Sandhurst.

LITTLEWOOD—JOHNSON.—On the 20th October, at All Saints' Church, St. Kilda, by the Rev. Canon Gregory, George, second son of George Orlando Littlewood, of Gravesend, England, to Mary Elizabeth, only daughter of William Johnson, Government analytical chemist, St. Kilda.

WALLACE—BEACH.—On the 15th September, Joseph Wallace, of Brampton, England, to Winifred Emma, eldest daughter of H. P. Beach, chemist, South Yarra.

DEATHS.

TOMPSITT.—On the 27th October, at Hazelbank, Mair-street, Hawthorn, Esther, the dearly beloved wife of Mr. H. T. Tompsitt, aged 40 years.

SMITH.—On the 16th October, at Afton Villa, Bulleen-road, Kew, Elizabeth Mitchell, beloved wife of Gilbert Smith, M.R.C.V.S. England, and mother of Mrs. James M'Kinley and Mrs. W. A. T. Lind.

M'BURNEY.—On the 20th October, at Mair-street, Benalla, Maggie, only daughter of the late Henry Grier M'Burney, aged 3 years and 5 months.



C.R. BLACKETT.
VIC.



J.A. POND.
N.Z. PRES



T. HUNTSMAN
VIC.



H.W. POTTS
Q.



L. FAIR
TA.



H SHILLINGLAW
VIC.



L.R. SCAMMELL
S.A.

DELEGATES TO THE FIRST INTERCOLONIAL



C. BONNINGTON
N.Z.



B. F. BOZON
N.S.W.



T. B. MELHUISH
N.S.W.



E. R. ASH
TAS.



W. H. SOWTER
S.A.



J. MAYNE
N.S.W.



CRYSTAL PALACE BONDS GOLD MEDAL MARKING INK.
THE AUSTRALASIAN JOURNAL OF PHARMACY. Bond

THE AUSTRALASIAN Journal of Pharmacy.

No. 12.]

DECEMBER, 1886.

[VOL. I.

Original and Selected Articles.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.—ITS BIRTH AND PROGRESS.

No. V.

At a meeting on 29th March, 1860, Mr. Ford having been elected president, Mr. Wragge vice-president, and Messrs. W. Dunstone and Kruse re-elected treasurer and hon. secretary respectively, the Council proceeded to consider the best means of rousing Victorian chemists and druggists out of their apathy as regards the society, the result of which was the despatch to every member of the trade in the colony of a circular letter earnestly appealing for "co-operation and assistance towards enabling it successfully to surmount the numerous difficulties (chiefly of a pecuniary nature, arising mainly from the large arrears of subscriptions and other causes) which, it is to be regretted, have seriously interfered with the general usefulness of the society;" and pointing out, in conclusion, that, should this appeal be made in vain, an early dissolution of the society might be expected, "as it will, of course, be quite impossible to carry on without funds; and it is not probable that gentlemen forming the Council will any longer continue to waste their time and money for the benefit and advancement of a body so little capable of appreciating the sacrifice."

But the seed apparently fell on very stony ground, for, in an article in the *Journal* for October, six months afterwards, the writer, referring to its non-publication during a period of twelve months, goes on to say:—"The extreme indifference manifested as to the prosperity of an institution entirely devoted to the interests of the chemists and druggists in Victoria is matter at once for profoundest regret and astonishment. Is it that chemists here are intellectually behind most other professions and trades that they cannot be brought to see the advantages of union, and this, too, in the face of so many examples? What can be the cause of the deep lethargy that characterises the body, and hangs upon it like a spell?"

In the face of discouragement like this it is somewhat remarkable to find the Council on several occasions refusing to admit applicants for membership who failed to satisfy the required conditions, viz., a satisfactory assurance that the applicant had been "duly educated to the trade." At any cost they announced their firm determination to preserve the select character of the society. Up to the present year all such applications had been decided by the Council as such; but at a meeting held on 9th August it was decided to appoint a Board of Examiners, consisting of five of its members—three to form a quorum—who should be empowered to examine each applicant for membership "as to his knowledge of the business

of a chemist and druggist, and, on satisfactory evidence of competency being given by the applicant to the Board, a certificate shall be granted by the Board."

The first volume of the minutes of the society closes with the notes of a meeting held on 14th March, 1861, at which the report to be presented to the fourth annual meeting, on 21st March, was read and approved of. Of the report itself, or the history of the society during the next six months, we appear to have no formal record, the second volume of minutes, strange to say, opening with the notes of a meeting held on 6th December, 1861, and we are therefore compelled to rely almost entirely on the report read at the fifth annual meeting, on 21st March, 1862, for our history of the intervening period.

From this we glean that Mr. Wragge had been elected president for the year, and that Mr. Lewis had succeeded Mr. Dunstone as treasurer. Early in the year the Council had signalled themselves by their prompt and vigorous opposition to an objectionable Registration of Medical Practitioners Bill, and later on to a similar measure introduced by Dr. Macadam, who, however, on being appealed to, agreed to the introduction of a clause exempting chemists and druggists from its action. An intimation is given of the Council's intention at an early date to issue to the members a certificate or diploma, which, it is added, "although it at present may be thought to possess no intrinsic value, will at least serve to distinguish those gentlemen who are endeavouring to elevate the tone of pharmacy in Victoria."

At the fourth annual meeting it had been decided to restore the subscription to its original amount of two guineas, and the report, in somewhat lugubrious manner, records that as the Council had at the same time discontinued active canvass for members, "leaving it to the body of chemists to subscribe voluntarily," the result had been a further falling off of the names on the roll. The balance-sheet reveals the fact that the total revenue of the year (1861-2) amounted to no more than £31 10s., consisting of the subscriptions of fifteen members, whose names will, under the circumstances, no doubt, prove of interest. They are given as follows:—Messrs. Irvine, Long, Ford, Mortensen, Blair, Wragge, Day, Dunstone, Lewis, Armstrong, Woodhouse, Kruse, Brooke, Johnston, Bosisto. But, small as was the revenue, the expenditure was kept within it, the total expenses actually chargeable to the year, including £7 10s. for "one special volume of the Journal," being £9 3s. 6d.; while a balance of £11 odd was carried forward to the credit of the succeeding year.

Mr. Kingsland was elected to a vacant seat on the Council, and the following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year (1862-3), viz.:—President, Mr. Wragge; vice-president, Mr. Day; treasurer, Mr. Lewis; hon. secretary, Mr. Bosisto, Mr. Kruse, who was unable, through indisposition, to continue to act in the latter capacity, being awarded a vote of thanks for the valuable services he had rendered to the society during his term of office.

THE first issue of the 1885 edition of the British Pharmacopœia, comprising 20,000 copies, having been exhausted, the edition has been reprinted from electro-type plates, and the opportunity has been taken to introduce the necessary corrections in the text.

CONTRARY to Dr. Koch's theory, Drs. Buchner and Emmerich have found evidence, during their studies in Sicily, as to the origin of cholera; and are of opinion that the disease makes its way into the system through the lungs rather than through the alimentary canal.

NEW AUSTRALIAN PLANTS;

DESCRIBED BY BARON VON MUELLER, K.C.M.G., M. & PH.D., F.R.S.

(Continued.)

TRICHOSANTHES HOLTZEI.

Branches angular; leaves cordate or renate, with a deep and narrow sinus, otherwise lobeless, slightly scabrous above, subtle-hairy beneath; tendrils two-branched; flowers comparatively small, staminate and pistillate on the same plant, the former corymbous, the latter solitary and long-stalked; lobes of the calyces small, linear-semilanceolar as well as the bracts; tube of the pistilliferous calyx almost cylindrical; lobes of the corolla ovate-lanceolar, long-fringed; ovary slender.

Near Port Darwin; M. Holtze.

This species reminds of *T. anguina*, but the leaves are not lobed, the flowers somewhat smaller, the pistillate flowers provided with a long peduncle, and the fruit (which of our new plant remained unknown) will likely be also different.

T. pentaphylla has been gathered by Mr. Pentzke on the Daintree-River, *T. palmata* by Mr. O'Shanesy near the Comet-River, and *T. cucumerina* by Mr. Persieh on the Endeavour-River.

BAMBUSA ARNHEMICA.

Rather tall; leaves narrow-lanceolar, long-pointed, somewhat cuneate at the base, attenuated into the short free portion of the petiole, almost glabrous above, faintly downy beneath, slightly rough at the edge; ligule short, hairy-fringed; spikelets numerous crowded into dense distant clusters, narrow, many abbreviated, a few elongated, the latter with several fertile flowers; outer floral bracts glabrous, acute, thinly nerved; innermost bract almost blunt, slightly ciliated, nearly as long as the outer bract; sepals 3, very small, though conspicuous, roundish, hairy-fringed; anthers yellow, very narrow, blunt, unbearded; style short, trifid to near the base; stigmas bearded; ovary almost glabrous.

On the Daly-River; Moritz Holtze.

Leaves (so far as seen on this occasion) about six inches long and one inch broad, of thinly chartaceous texture, hardly paler beneath, replicate in the young state. Peduncle slender, glabrous. Spikelets clustered at interstices along the peduncle; the largest attaining a length of 2 inches. Racheole jointed, somewhat silky. Bracts of the fertile flowers nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long; innermost floral bract tender-membranous, faintly two-nerved. Stamens 6; filaments capillary; anthers $\frac{1}{8}$ — $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, slightly bilobed at the base. Styles glabrous, nearly as long as the stigmas. Ovary slightly silky at the summit. Fruit as yet unknown.

Mr. Paul Foelsche indicates the existence of two species of Bamboo on the Adelaide-River, one of much less size than the other; so that still another species of Arnhem's Land needs to be elucidated. Another Bamboo, though perhaps not belonging to the genus *Bambusa*, is known since nearly forty years to exist in the jungles of North-Eastern Australia, through Mr. Will. Carron's account of Kennedy's tragic expedition. From Mr. Pentzke I received specimens of this Bamboo as collected on affluents of the Daintree-River, which prove it a species with hard not very hollow canes; flowers and fruits have not as yet been obtained; but the sender remarks, that it reaches a height over 100 feet, and that its branches are very spreading, leaning to the adjoining trees and growing intricately, indeed so interwovenly, that natural hedges are formed by the plant, yet the stems are seldom gaining beyond $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter.

(To be continued.)

THE AUSTRALASIAN

Journal of Pharmacy

With which is incorporated the Australasian Chemist and Druggist.

Published on the 20th of each Month.

THIS Journal, which is the only organ of Pharmacy in the Australasian Colonies, is devoted to the advancement of Pharmaceutical knowledge, and to the advocacy of a more thorough education and practical training for all persons engaged in preparing and dispensing medicines, drugs, and chemicals. It is issued gratis to the members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia in

Victoria, New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland,	South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia, Fiji,
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No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for

insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will be glad to consider any suggestions from Members and Subscribers regarding the improvement of this publication.

Contributions of any items of interest are invited.

Advertisements to be inserted in the next issue should be received by the Publisher not later than the 14th of each month.

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Readers are respectfully requested to mention this Journal when acting on information obtained from it.

Editorial.**THE PAST YEAR.**

With our present issue we complete the first volume of *The Australasian Journal of Pharmacy*, and close our record of a year that will always be memorable in pharmaceutical history as that in which for the first time specially appointed delegates from the various colonies of Australasia met in friendly conclave to discuss the varying conditions of their art, and, if possible, to adopt means of bringing these into such uniformity as would unite Australasian pharmacists of the future in one grand federated body, governed by similar laws, animated by the same high aims, and entitled by their high qualifications to take a leading position among workers in the fields of science and research.

The success which attended that important gathering has already been fully described in our pages, and we would ill have fulfilled our functions as the recognised organ of Australasian pharmacy were it necessary for us here to enter into any lengthy disquisition on the many advantages which the carrying into effect of the various resolutions adopted—as a rule, unanimously—by the delegates is bound to secure to pharmacists; or the impetus which would thus be given to the future development of their art in this Greater Britain of the South. That these resolutions will eventually be put into practical operation, and that the high ideals for which we have striven in the past will sooner or later be realised, we entertain not a particle of doubt. How soon or how far distant that period may be depends very much on pharmacists themselves, and we sincerely hope that during the coming year we shall be privileged to record much devoted and successful effort in the direction indicated.

Naturally the Conference, to a great extent, dwarfs by comparison all other events of the year, but a brief allusion to some of these may not be here without some interest.

In Victoria the great success attending the College of Pharmacy under the directorate of Mr. A. H. Jackson has satisfactorily demonstrated the wisdom of the choice made on behalf of the Pharmaceutical Council by Professors Attfield and Redwood and Mr. Sydney Plowman, and amply justified the generous recognition of the claims of the college afforded by the Government in making it an annual grant of £1000. With the beginning of the new year a largely reduced scale of fees will be brought into operation, which will have the result of rendering it even more popular than it has already become; while, by the division of the year into two sessions, students will be enabled to qualify themselves for examination in six instead of twelve months, as formerly. It is doubtful, indeed, if any other country in the world can boast of an educational institution superior to that now enjoyed by pharmaceutical and chemical students in Victoria, and it may be confidently prophesied that the day is not far distant when the College will obtain official recognition not only throughout Australasia, but in England, Europe, and the United States of America.

In another article we refer at some length to a most important decision of the Supreme Court, which of itself is sufficient to render the past year an eventful one, and in Victoria, at least, pharmacists have every reason to feel satisfied with the protection afforded to them by the law from the unscrupulous competition of unqualified tradesmen.

In New South Wales the efforts made by the Pharmaceutical Society to obtain an Act of Incorporation met with a good deal of opposition from various quarters, but although counted among the innocents slaughtered at the end of the session, there is every hope of the measure being attended with better success next year. A Medical Practitioners Bill, introduced by Dr. Tarrant, caused some temporary uneasiness, which was allayed by the promise of an amendment to the effect that nothing in the bill should be construed to affect or prejudice the rights of chemists and druggists. In an unsuccessful effort to get the bill passed before the end of the session, Dr. Tarrant appears to have been unable to carry out his promise, but in the event of its being again brought forward, the bill will no doubt be presented in such a form as will recommend it to the support of the pharmaceutical body of that colony.

In Queensland not only has the Pharmacy Board been brought into active operation, but the resuscitation of the Pharmaceutical Society has resulted in the establishment of a School of Pharmacy, which gives every promise of developing into a highly important and popular institution.

In South Australia the Pharmaceutical Society, which commenced its first financial year the 1st of January last, has displayed great activity in establishing itself on a firm basis, and ere long will, no doubt, initiate steps to obtain similar legislative protection to that now enjoyed in Victoria.

In New Zealand, where the Pharmaceutical Society is still unhappily in a dormant condition, the vigorous efforts made by the Pharmacy Board to obtain amendments of the Pharmacy Act and the Sale of Poisons Act have earned them the grateful thanks of their constituents; while in Tasmania the principal event of the year has been the passing of a Poisons Bill, which, generally speaking, is a counterpart of that now in force in Victoria.

In concluding this brief sketch we may be permitted to express our acknowledgments for the gratifying measure of support, both from subscribers and advertisers, which has so far rewarded our efforts to render the *Journal* worthy of its recognised position as the organ of Australasian pharmacy. That it has some

defects and imperfections we are only too well aware, and we shall, at all times, be found ready to give our careful attention to any suggestions for its improvement with which we may be favoured by our readers. But however far short it may fall of the high ideal with which we set out, we have every reason to believe that it has not been without a powerful influence on the growth of that federal spirit to which much of the success of the recent Conference may be attributed, and that in many other ways a great deal of good has accrued from the information published in its pages. Relying upon the practical sympathy of pharmacists throughout the southern hemisphere, we have every confidence that in the coming year we shall be enabled to render the *Journal* of still greater value to its readers, each and all of whom will, we sincerely trust, enjoy

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

PHARMACY V. CO-OPERATIVE STORES.

As will be seen from the special report published elsewhere in this issue, the Full Court has practically reversed the decision of the District Court in the case of Shillinglaw v. the Equitable Co-operative Society, and Victorian pharmacists can now, thanks to the thoughtful provision and energetic action of their Pharmacy Board, congratulate themselves on the possession of an Act under which they may rely with confidence for protection against the unfair and mischievous competition of those commercial octopi of modern times—the co-operative stores. In face of the clear enunciation of the law given in the present instance, there is, we think, but little likelihood of any further attempt on the part of these associations to encroach on the privileges with which registered chemists have, for the public good, been invested by the Legislature. Indirectly we have, indeed, to thank the trading concern in question for affording us one of the most satisfactory test cases that could be desired to elucidate the law on the point involved. So ingenious, indeed, was the scheme adopted to evade—or, shall we say, to fulfil—the law that we can almost forgive the Solons who first decided on its merits for their inability to see through it, from a legal point of view, although as business men they might have been expected to give a decision more in accordance with the common sense of everyday life. “The medicine was duly dispensed,” said they, “by a duly qualified chemist, and that he complied with the Act in every way, and that the public were duly protected. *Although he chose to dispense at the offices of the company, we do not think the company were to be held responsible.*” It is refreshing to find among those whose magisterial duties bring them in contact with all phases and varieties of human character, gentlemen so unsophisticated as to believe that Mr. Goold occupied a position while dispensing at the offices of the company as independent as if he were performing this function in an open shop of his own, or that the actual business control of the department was not as truly under the non-professional management of the society as in the case of the ironmongery and grocery departments, with which it appears to have been in close juxtaposition. “And what if this were the case?” may be asked by the justices in reply. “So long as the dispensing is done by a properly qualified chemist, are not the public just as well protected in purchasing their drugs at a store as if they obtained them from the same dispenser at his own premises?” Limiting the argument to the case of the Equitable Store, so far as our knowledge of it goes, it would perhaps be difficult to answer this question in the negative. No doubt, in view of the proceedings looming in the distance, every precaution was taken to secure accurate dispensing and drugs of the best quality. But, taking

the question in its wider and more general scope, it will not be difficult, we think, to convince our non-professional readers, to whom we are at present specially addressing ourselves, that the system of what may be styled commercial pharmacy would speedily open the door to abuses, from which the public would themselves be the greatest sufferers. How long would it be, for instance, before the grocer or the ironmonger from the neighbouring counter would be called in at a pinch to perform duties which should only be entrusted to an experienced dispenser? And, enabled as trading companies would be by the variety of their wares and the extensive nature of their business to make a "leading line" of their drugs, selling them at prices which would prove simply ruinous to the legitimate chemist, numerous hitherto flourishing pharmacies would be compelled to close their doors, and young men of the high class now being attracted to its ranks would hesitate before entering upon the long course of study and application necessary to qualify themselves for a thankless and unprofitable profession, the tone of which would gradually deteriorate, and its present high standard become lowered. Having thus practically obtained a monopoly of the business, the conquerors would speedily be able to make up for the small profits, or losses, by which they had bribed their way to victory, and when it was too late the public would awake to the folly of which they had been guilty in thus discouraging the growth of an indigenous scientific pharmacy, which had promised to become renowned throughout the world. Thanks to the wisdom of our legislators, such a catastrophe has been effectually guarded against in Victoria, and in view of the unequivocal decision now given by the highest court in the colony, pharmacists can afford to forgive the gentlemen of the lower court for any temporary uneasiness they may have caused; while our brethren in the other colonies will, no doubt, hasten to obtain, as recommended by the recent Conference, similar statutory protection to that afforded by the Victorian Act. There is one point further in connection with this subject upon which a few words may not be out of place here. Without such assistance as that afforded by Mr. Goold, such insidious attacks on our rights and privileges as that now defeated would be impossible, and it is to be sincerely hoped that few among us would be found willing to fill a position so unfair to their professional *confrères* as that recently occupied by the gentleman referred to.

Victoria.

THE PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA.

THE monthly meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria was held at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, Melbourne, on Wednesday, the 8th December, 1886.

Present—Messrs. Blackett, Brind, Francis, Owen, Strut, and Tompsitt.

The president (Mr. C. R. Blackett) in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION.

The following applicants, having furnished the necessary statutory declarations as to their qualifications, were duly registered as pharmaceutical chemists:—

Robinson, John Edward, Toorak-road ; minor certificate Pharmaceutical Society Great Britain.

Cunningham, Oscar William, 126 Gertrude-street, Fitzroy ; minor certificate Pharmaceutical Society Great Britain.

Parsons, William, Sandhurst ; in business in Victoria before 1st October, 1876.

Smith, Andrew, Kyneton; in business in Victoria before 1st October, 1876.

Smith, Joseph, Numurkah; in business in New Zealand before 1st October, 1876.

Baker, John Edward, 31 Bourke-street East, Melbourne; passed modified examination, Victoria.

Bateman, William Henry, Ballarat; passed major examination, Victoria, 7th December, 1886.

Obbinson, Thomas, Toorak; passed major examination, Victoria, 7th December, 1886.

Turner, George Burton, Colac; passed major examination, Victoria, 7th December, 1886.

Keays, Charles Edward, 31 Bourke-street East, Melbourne; passed major examination, Victoria, 7th December, 1886.

The name of Andrew Chadwick, Yarraville, was restored to the Pharmaceutical Register.

The following applicants appeared personally and submitted evidence in support of their applications for registration:—

Michael William Butler, Sandhurst. Decision reserved.

George Carrighan, Elizabeth-street north. Postponed for further evidence.

Joseph Smith, Numurkah; Andrew Smith, Kyneton; and William Parsons, Sandhurst. The evidence in these cases was deemed satisfactory.

The hearing of the following cases was postponed until next meeting:—
E. E. Llewellyn, W. W. Palmer, J. C. H. Lilley, and Henry Poulden.

PROSECUTION OF THE EQUITABLE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

The registrar submitted to the Board a report of the appeal case in which the Supreme Court had decided that it was illegal for the society to carry on the business of a Pharmaceutical Chemist.

REPORT OF THE EXAMINERS.

The following are the candidates who passed at the quarterly examinations:—

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION, 1ST DECEMBER.

Algion Abbott, St. James' Grammar School.

Geo. W. M'Gillivray, St. Kilda.

L. H. Henshall, Seymour.

Miss Minnie Kelberg, Carlton.

William Buchanan, Colac.

Herbert Henshall, Seymour.

Percy Wilkinson, St. James' Grammar School.

Louis G. Blanc, St. Kilda.

William Dunoon, Colac.

Nineteen candidates presented themselves for this examination.

MATERIA MEDICA AND BOTANY, 2ND AND 3RD DECEMBER.

Charles E. Steedman, Melbourne.

Thos. E. Turner, Fitzroy.

John Cranstoun, Castlemaine.

J. F. Dentry, Geelong.

John Champion, Melbourne.

Bertie B. Ham, Ballarat.

Arthur Edwards, Melbourne.

R. Blackie, Albury.

A. M. Palmer, Ballarat.

Seventeen candidates presented themselves for this examination.

CHEMISTRY AND PRACTICAL CHEMISTRY, 2ND AND 3RD DECEMBER.

G. B. Turner, Colac.
 Arthur Edwards, Melbourne.
 R. Blackie, Albury.
 J. A. Anderson, Ballarat.

Seven candidates presented themselves for this examination.

PRACTICAL PHARMACY, MAJOR EXAMINATION, BEFORE THE WHOLE BOARD, 6TH AND 7TH DECEMBER.

G. B. Turner, Colac.
 Thomas Obbinson, Toorak.
 C. A. Graves, Fitzroy.
 W. H. Bateman, Ballarat.
 John J. Hill, St. Kilda.
 Charles Edward Keays, Melbourne.

Ten candidates presented themselves for this examination.

MODIFIED EXAMINATION, 7TH DECEMBER.

John Edward Baker, Melbourne.

NAMES OF DECEASED PERSONS ERASED FROM THE PHARMACEUTICAL REGISTER.

Donald Robertson, 335 Brunswick-street, Fitzroy.
 Sholto Douglas Hodgson, Darlington.
 James Melvin Paul, Nagambie.

Correspondence, police reports, and financial business brought the meeting to a close.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of the Council was held at the Society's hall, Swanston-street, Melbourne, on Friday, the 10th December, at 2 p.m.

Present—Messrs. Baker, Huntsman, Hooper, Kingsland, Tompsitt, Harrison, and Shillinglaw.

Mr. T. Huntsman in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

The following gentlemen were ballotted for and duly elected:—

John Edward Booth, Collingwood.
 Henry R. Beckett, Sandhurst.
 — Pye, New South Wales.
 W. H. Sowter, Adelaide.
 L. R. Scammell, Adelaide.
 G. K. Hinsby, Hobart.

T. B. E. Huntsman was also entered as an apprentice.

SYLLABUS OF THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY FOR 1887.

There will be two entire courses during the year, the first commencing on the second Monday in January, and ending on the last Friday in May, and the second commencing on the last Monday in June, and ending on the last Friday in November. The fees are the same as those already published. It was resolved that the syllabus be printed and circulated.

THE PROPOSED CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST DEFENCE FUND.

Some considerable time was taken up in discussing this matter, the report of the committee being finally adopted, and a circular is now in course of preparation to be addressed to every pharmacist on the Pharmaceutical Register of Victoria.

PHARMACY FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS.

The hon. secretary reported the result of the interview on this subject with the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dr. J. Williams, and Professor Masson. A report of the meeting will be found elsewhere.

THE INTERCOLONIAL PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

There was a considerable amount of correspondence in reference to the Conference, which was dealt with. There was also a large general correspondence to dispose of, which, with financial business, brought the meeting to a close.

THE SOUTH SUBURBAN CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING of the South Suburban Chemists' Association was held at Thorn's Royal George Hotel on 7th December. Present:—Mr. Witt (chair), Messrs. Bennett, Cockram, Webb, Corinaldi, Dalton, Hicks, Stevens, Niemann, Chamberlin. Minutes of last meeting read and confirmed. Correspondence read and accepted. The hon. secretary was directed to write to Mr. H. Shillinglaw, thanking him for the telegram *re* the decision in the Equitable Store case, and congratulating him on the result. The election of officers then took place, Mr. Witt being elected president and Mr. Dalton vice-president. The offices of hon. secretary and treasurer were combined, for which Mr. Chamberlin was elected, and Messrs. Webb and Cockram for auditors. The meeting was then adjourned.

THE TEACHING OF PRACTICAL PHARMACY TO MEDICAL STUDENTS AT THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

THE dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the Melbourne University (Professor Allen), Dr. Williams, and Professor Masson received in the Board-room of the Melbourne Hospital on Friday, the 10th December, a deputation from the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, consisting of Messrs. C. R. Blackett, T. Huntsman, and H. Shillinglaw. Professor Jackson, the director of the College of Pharmacy, was also present.

Professor Allen said he understood the object of the meeting was to confer as to the necessity of some alteration in the mode of teaching pharmacy to medical students. The Faculty of Medicine were satisfied that the present system was unsatisfactory, and they would be glad to hear what proposal the Pharmaceutical Society desired to submit.

Mr. Blackett said the object of the deputation was to urge on the Faculty of Medicine the desirableness of making pharmacy a subject in the medical course, and which could only be taught at some institution approved by the Faculty. In order to bring this about it would be necessary to rescind the present regulation recognising the certificate of any private person and recognise only public institutions. Mr. Blackett also pointed out that for the last two years a class for the teaching of pharmacy had been established at the College of Pharmacy, but had not been largely attended.

Mr. Huntsman concurred in the remarks of Mr. Blackett, and suggested that it would be desirable that the students should be required to pass an examination. At the conclusion of the course, at present it was only necessary that a certificate of attendance should be produced.

Professor Allen said the Faculty of Medicine were agreed as to the advantages to be gained by the attendance of medical students at the College of Pharmacy, and were prepared to recommend that no private certificate should be accepted. In reference to the absence of an examination he thought this

case might be met by the issue of two certificates—one of attendance, and the other of proficiency. The Faculty of Medicine were prepared to recommend that this arrangement should come into operation from the 1st January next, and that it would practically fulfil all the deputation asked for.

The interview then terminated.

SHILLINGLAW V. THE EQUITABLE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LIMITED.

(Before the Full Court—Justices Williams, Holroyd and Kerferd—on 7th Dec.)

(Specially reported for The Australasian Journal of Pharmacy.)

THIS was an appeal from a decision of the District Police Court, Melbourne, on 9th September, the following special case having been stated by the justices for the opinion of the Full Court:—

The information in this case alleged that the Equitable Co-operative Society, Limited, being a society duly registered in pursuance of the provisions of "The Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1873," and not being a registered pharmaceutical chemist, did carry on business as a chemist and druggist contrary to the statute in that case provided. The justices at Melbourne dismissed the information. The facts stated were as follow:—It was proved that the informant, H. W. Shillinglaw, was the duly authorised registrar of the Pharmacy Board, and was authorised to prosecute in this case. Shillinglaw wrote to the defendant society and drew attention to sect. 10 of the Amended Pharmacy Act, No. 858. The defendant wrote to the registrar stating that the defendant's dispenser, James Crosbie Goold, was registered in the Pharmaceutical Register. Goold's residence was registered as being at No. 91 Cecil-street, at South Melbourne. The registrar afterwards recorded Goold's residence as 89 Collins-street east, at Melbourne, which address was also the defendant's place of business. It was further proved that one James Scott took a medical prescription to the store of the Equitable Co-operative Society, Limited, at the above address, and that at the medicine department he had the prescription dispensed by Goold. The bottle containing the medicine bore a label to the following effect:—"Dispensed at the Equitable Co-operative Pharmacy, 89 Collins-street, by J. C. Goold, pharmaceutical chemist."

Dr. Madden and Mr. Isaacs, instructed by Messrs. Emerson and Barrow, for the complainant appellant.—The defendant has been prosecuted, under the Pharmacy Act 1876, for carrying on the business of a chemist without being registered. Section 25, subsection (1) of that Act provides that "Any person not being a registered pharmaceutical chemist who carries on or attempts to carry on business as a chemist and druggist or homœopathic chemist or either" shall be subject to a penalty not exceeding £10. The Pharmacy Act 1885, No. 858, sec. 10, provides that "the word 'person' wherever the same occurs in Part IV. of the Principal Act shall be deemed to include any corporation whether established by charter or otherwise and any company or society registered duly in pursuance of the provisions of any Act of Parliament." Therefore it must be conceded that the word "person" in section 25 of the Principal Act includes a society like the defendant society. The question then is, whether this defendant carried on the business of a chemist or druggist. It is submitted that the defendant, beyond all doubt, did carry on such business under the superintendence of Goold. The statute distinctly provides that all persons carrying on this business must be registered. No corporation or society can register itself as a chemist, and therefore the object and definite intention of the Legislature was to

practically prohibit all such societies from carrying on the business of a chemist in any manner.

Judge Holroyd: Cannot a corporation register itself as a chemist?

No; the qualifications are purely personal.

Judge Williams: Section 10 says that the word "person" shall include a corporation under Part IV. of the Act, and that seems to infer that a corporation can carry on such a business.

No; not necessarily.

Judge Williams: You must read it thus then, "Any corporation not being registered as a pharmaceutical chemist cannot carry on such business."

Yes; of course if a society could register itself it would be different.

Judge Williams: Then sect. 10 is of no use at all?

It had been held in England that the word "person" did not include a society like the present, and it was in view of that fact that section 10 was passed. There is no doubt that, whatever may be the reasons, the Legislature aimed directly at these very societies, and it was intended to prevent them from carrying on this particular business.

Judge Kerferd: Is not this business transacted by Goold himself, who is a registered chemist, in a place which may or may not belong to the defendant? It is like the case of a dentist who visits an hotel at certain intervals; the dentist carries on his business at the hotel, and the hotelkeeper is not in any way identified with the business.

No; the two cases are very distinct. The label on the medicine bottle is headed, "At the Equitable Co-operative Pharmacy."

Judge Kerferd: The Railway Commissioners let premises to licensed persons to sell liquors; why should not a society let its premises to a registered chemist?

That perhaps might be done if it were done *bona fide*. All the documents show that the department is the department of the society, and that the society has full control over it. Section 10 was passed in consequence of the decision in *Pharmaceutical Society v. London and Provincial Supply Association* (5 ap. ca. 857). In that case Blackburn, L.J., at p. 872 says, with reference to the object of the Act: "I myself think that probably one reason for that was to facilitate convictions, and another may have been that it was thought that, if there is a person who keeps a shop who is unqualified, he may have a qualified assistant, and he will be able to over-rule the qualified assistant at any moment he pleases, and there may be danger in that."

Mr. Hodges and Dr. M'Inerney for the respondent defendant.—The complainant here has to establish that there was a case on which the justices were bound to convict, because the justices have found against him, and this Court would have to say that the only thing the justices could do was to convict the defendant. That practically makes this a *mandamus* to compel them to decide in a different way to that in which they have decided. The evidence did not satisfy the justices, and they dismissed the complaint. It is submitted that the mere fact of the defendant having on its premises a place at which drugs are dispensed does not make it a chemist. It is said in the English case cited by the appellant that the object of the Act was to prevent an unqualified person interfering with a qualified person. In this case there is nothing whatever to show that the society carried on this business, or that it interfered in any way with the registered chemist who dispensed the medicines. All that is proved is that in a certain portion of its premises it allows drugs to be dispensed.

Judge Williams: The evidence shows that there is a portion of its premises at which it dispenses drugs through the instrumentality of Goold.

The evidence does not necessarily bind us to that conclusion.

Judge Kerferd: Must the premises be registered?

Yes.

Dr. Madden, in reply: There is one portion of the case which distinctly shows that there is no pretext that Goold was carrying on this business on his own account— (He was stopped by the Court.)

The Court delivered its decision as follows:—We think that it is clear from the facts of this case that the pharmacy business in question was carried on by the defendant through the instrumentality of Goold, who is a registered chemist. We think that it is the defendant's business, under its control, and carried on by that means in one of the society's departments. It appears to be conceded that if that be so the justices should have convicted the defendant, and we therefore think their decision was erroneous. The case will be remitted to the justices with this intimation. Costs of the appeal allowed.

The Month.

An index to the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy* for the year 1886 is published with this issue.

MR. JOSEPH BOSISTO, C.M.G., the Victorian Commissioner to the Indian and Colonial Exhibition, was to leave London on 16th December, and may be expected in Melbourne early in the year.

MESSRS. J. A. Pond and G. Bonnington, the New Zealand delegates to the Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference, we learn by last advices, have arrived home, and in good health, having thoroughly enjoyed their trip round the colonies.

WE are pleased to record the return to Melbourne of Mr. Alfred Felton, of Messrs. Felton, Grimwade & Co., after an absence of some months, during which he has visited the old world and America. There was great rejoicing in Flinders-lane on the arrival of the senior partner.

THE *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy Diary* for 1887 is now ready for distribution to all the members of the society and subscribers to the *Journal of Pharmacy*. Where copies have not reached their destination an intimation should be sent to Mr. Shillinglaw, Swanston-street, Melbourne.

DR. LAURA MORGAN is experiencing considerable difficulty in obtaining her registration in Victoria, as she has yet been unable to satisfy the Medical Board as to her qualifications. Dr. Morgan has now handed in slips from her professors, showing the number of lectures which she attended in America.

A GERMAN named John William Hohle, employed by Mr. Morrison, chemist, Ararat, decamped on the 6th December with £30, taken from his employer's safe. Constable M'Hugh arrested him, and brought him to Beaufort. The prisoner was brought up at the police court. He pleaded guilty, and was remanded to Ararat.

THE following information is taken from the *Government Gazette* of Friday, the 3rd December:—Appointments—G. M. Reid, M.D., to be public vaccinator at Castlemaine, vice M. A. Muirhead, M.R.C.S., resigned; E. W. Plews, L.S.A., to be health officer Shire of Ballan; W. E. L. F. Hearn, M.B., to be analyst Borough of Hamilton.

As Professor M'Coy is now absent from the colony, and will not return until his seat will have become vacant by effluxion of time, and Professor Andrews has resigned, it will be seen that after this date members of the professorial staff will no longer take part in the administration of Melbourne University affairs in the council.

SOME 86 cases of brandy, which were recently brought from Marseilles, have been seized by direction of the Central Board of Health. Samples analysed by Mr. C. R. Blackett were described as "below the standard, and not genuine brandy," and Mr. Blackett added that he did not consider that the liquor should be allowed to go into consumption.

LETTERS patent were granted by the Attorney-General on the 7th December to Mr. Thos. Swallow, of Cairns, Queensland, for a new powder for fining or clarifying saccharine juices, syrups, and solutions, which is produced by mixing and compounding together certain quantities of water, sulphuric acid, chloride of sodium, charcoal, manganese, and ochre.

AT the meeting of the committee of the Melbourne Hospital, held on the 14th inst., the tenders for the supply of drugs, &c., for the year were further considered, and, on the recommendation of the drug committee, the tender of Messrs. Rocke, Tompsitt and Co. was accepted.

A MEETING of the council of the Imperial Federation League was held on the 10th December; Mr. Carter, M.L.A., in the chair. The chairman announced that an offer had been made by Messrs. Francis Forrest and Co., of 132 Collins-street, Melbourne, agents for Messrs. A. and F. Pears, of London, to supplement the previous offers of prizes for the best essay on Imperial Federation by the sum of £10 10s. It was resolved unanimously to accept the offer with thanks.

THE monthly meeting of the Medical Society of Victoria was held in the hall, Albert-street, on Wednesday, the 10th November. The president, Dr. Jamieson, occupied the chair. It was notified that the resignation of Dr. W. Warren had been accepted by the committee. Dr. T. S. Davies, of Williamstown, was elected a member of the society. The evening was devoted to the discussion of Dr. James Robertson's paper on the question—"Is Phthisis Pulmonalis Contagious?"

THE ordinary monthly meeting of the Odontological Society took place on Thursday, 2nd December; Mr. Cumming, the president, occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance of members. A letter from Dr. Rose concerning the Dental Bill was read. Mr. Macgregor exhibited some of the first artificial teeth which had been manufactured in the colonies. Pathological specimens were shown by various members. The president opened a discussion on Artificial Dentures, in which several took part.

AT the Hotham Court on the 3rd December, George Leveridge, a milk vendor, was proceeded against by the town inspector on a charge of having sold adulterated milk. The evidence went to show that the defendant sold a pint and a half of milk to the inspector for 2d., which was afterwards sent to Mr. Dunn, analyst, who examined it, and found that it contained 27 per cent. of added water. The defendant stated that he sold it as "milk and water." A mitigated penalty of £5, with £2 2s. costs, was imposed.

WE have great pleasure in announcing the safe return to Melbourne of our esteemed friend Mr. William Bowen, the president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, who, in addition to being in excellent health, expresses himself greatly delighted with his trip to the old world. A number of Mr. Bowen's friends went down to the steamer on her arrival to welcome him back. Mr. Bowen has promised us some notes of his impressions of pharmacy in other countries, which we hope to publish next month.

A WELL-ATTENDED meeting was held in the library of the Pharmaceutical Society on Thursday, the 9th December, for the purpose of establishing a cricket club. Mr. A. C. Lewis laid before the meeting a statement of last annual cricket match, and, after some discussion, it was unanimously resolved

that a cricket club be formed, and that the subscription be 5s. for the coming season, and it was also arranged that a match should be played once a fortnight, commencing on the 4th January, at one o'clock, on the Richmond Cricket Ground. Mr. A. C. Lewis, the hon. secretary, is now arranging for the annual cricket match between the wholesale and retail chemists, which will be played on a day to be fixed early in the year, and contributions in aid of the expenses will be gladly received by him toward defraying the expenses of the match. It will be remembered that the gathering last year was a most pleasant one, the retail chemists being the guests of the wholesale firms. This year the duty of entertaining will fall on the retail.

At the time of going to press the only nominations for the two vacancies in the Pharmacy Board of Victoria were Messrs. H. T. Tompsett and A. J. Owen. The 26th January, 1887, at 4 p.m., is the last day for receiving nominations. The returning officer's announcement appears in our advertising columns.

New South Wales.

(*From our Special Correspondent.*)

SYDNEY, 14th December.

WE regret having to record the resignation of the president of the Pharmaceutical Society of this colony—Mr. W. Larmer, one of our oldest city pharmacists. Mr. Larmer was elected president in June, 1884, and re-elected to that position at the two succeeding annual meetings. In the early days of the society he was then examiner in chemistry, and lately has been discharging the duty of examiner in *materia medica*. Many of the students who were examined under this gentleman will recall with pleasure the kind and considerate treatment that they always experienced at his hands, and all with whom this gentleman has come in contact speak in the highest terms of the consideration and courtesy that they received at his hands. Failing health and desire for less conflict and greater quiet seem to be the causes of Mr. Larmer's retirement from office, coupled with, perhaps, the thought that a younger man with greater firmness and energy might, perchance, succeed better in controlling the affairs of the society in the present state of things. We cannot help thinking that the cause of Mr. Larmer's retirement was not from any wish to escape the labours of an onerous position, not from a loss of interest in the society's welfare, but rather from a sincere desire to advance the interests of the trade in the capacity of an ordinary member of the society, and having enjoyed the somewhat doubtful "sweets" of office for a considerable time, to allow another to assume the reins of government, in order to test the advantages of a change of president. The new president, Mr. Sadler, is one well known throughout the trade as a gentleman of great energy, of great business ability, and of boundless humour. He is the life of a picnic, and at a dinner forms a most admirable chairman. Mr. Sadler was an apprentice with Mr. Frank Senior, of George-street, and has been all his life intimately connected with pharmacy in New South Wales. But besides being a gentleman of genial disposition and a successful man of business, the new president has proved himself to be one of liberal and advanced opinions upon matters dealt with at the late Conference, and will be found to be in no way deficient in firmness or decision in dealing with our relationships with other colonies. It is to be hoped that with new blood in the council, and a change in several offices, a greater spirit of unanimity will prevail, and the

friendly relationships between the members of the trade will be strengthened, both at home and abroad.

In consequence of the resignation of Mr. Larmer, we have a vacancy in the Board of Examiners. Upon the motion of Mr. James Mayne, Mr. T. B. Melhuish was elected the examiner in *materia medica*. While we congratulate the society upon this appointment, and think the selection of Mr. Melhuish was a step in the right direction, yet it must be confessed the position of the examiners is a very unsatisfactory one. Some of the examiners claim that their appointment is for life, and that until a Pharmacy Act is passed they need not retire from the office. This claim is based upon the fact that a notification of their appointment has appeared in the Government Gazette, and no rule has been passed respecting the retirement of examiners. It is a generally accepted rule that examiners should be re-elected every year, and in many cases that the power of accepting or rejecting a candidate in an examination should not be left in the power of one man, but that the papers set should be submitted to the whole Board, who should have power to reject any question as too severe or unnecessary, and that the result should be declared on the inspection of the examination papers by two examiners in each subject.

The appointment of a member of Council in the room of Mr. Larmer rests with the president of the Council, but, usually, is in accordance with the wishes or opinion of the Council. Several names have been mentioned as probable occupants of the seat, and there can be no doubt but that if an election to the position were necessary we would have an animated contest. Prominent among the candidates would be Mr. Thornton, of Petersham, who has shown a great deal of zeal in pharmaceutical matters, and whose excellent qualities—both of heart and head—have won for him a large circle of friends. The only drawback to this gentleman is the very precarious state of his health, which prevents his doing much that he desires to do, or to see done, for the welfare of pharmacists. Other names might be mentioned, especially Mr. R. Bellamey, of Newtown; Mr. H. Brothwood, of Leichhardt; Mr. W. Parker, of Balmain; and Mr. J. Hamilton, of Redfern. Any of these gentlemen would form such desirable additions to the Council of the Society that we hope ere long to see the Council enlarged to ten members, and to have the pleasure of seeing some of these gentlemen among the Councillors.

In spite of the dulness of the times we have news of several new pharmacies about to be opened in the neighbourhood of Sydney. Mr. T. M'Donald, late assistant with Mr. Jones, of Surry Hills, Market-street, and Levuka, has opened a shop in Strathfield; Mr. J. Mills is starting shortly at Milson's Point; Mr. F. M. Clements, late of Summer Hill, is about to open a pharmacy on the Newtown-road. Mr. Withers, of Burwood, is desirous of disposing of his business, and Mr. Froude, of M'Donaldtown, wishes to find a purchaser. Mr. Pye, of Croydon, is about to open a chemist's shop in Ashfield, and it is rumoured that another druggist is about to commence business in Croydon.

At the last meeting of the Linnean Society of New South Wales Mr. E. Haviland read a very interesting paper on the "Flowering Seasons of the Australian Flowering Plants," and Mr. Masters exhibited a large collection of coleopters, consisting of 500 specimens.

During the months of November and December the Board of Technical Education engaged the following lecturers:—Professor Threlfall, to lecture on "Science as a Means of Education;" Mr. Angus Mackay, a series on "The Soils and Crops of New South Wales;" Mr. J. P. Edmunds, on "The Metals;" Mr. C. E. Wood, B.Sc., B.E., M.A., on "Structures and Materials;" Mr. Fred. Wright, a course on "Veterinary Medicine," and a second course on

"Perfumery;" Dr. F. M. Smith, a course of "Health Lectures;" Mr. W. Marshman, on "Stoneware and Pottery;" and Mr. John Haslam, on "House Building." It was also resolved to advertise for more lecturers early next year, as the present college staff are fully occupied with the duties of their departments. Lecturers are especially required on "Iron and its Reduction from Ores," and "Steel Manufacture."

The dulness of the times has caused an increase in the number of assistants out of employment in this city, and men of good character and little capital are seeking for openings in country towns.

Mr. Redford, of Kiama, has purchased the business of Mr. F. M. Clements, Summer Hill.

Mr. Evan Prosser reported a shock of earthquake that he states was distinctly felt at his residence at Darling Point. The shock was felt about two minutes past three o'clock on the morning of the 1st inst. It lasted for about fifteen seconds, and passed from east to west.

A man named Henry James Wood, a teacher of music, committed suicide by shutting himself up in a room with a pan of smouldering charcoal. When his family came to call him in the morning they found the room tightly fastened up, and the unfortunate man dead in bed.

On the 28th ult. an inquest was held at the South Sydney Morgue upon the body of Frederick Berndt, who died at the Grand Hotel, Wynyard-square, on the Wednesday morning previous. The deceased gentleman met with his death through eating some bread and butter with "Rough on Rats" between the slices. Mr. Uhde, the landlord, had prepared the poison for vermin, and took the bread into the commercial-room, where Mr. Berndt was sitting, and especially cautioned those in the room not to touch the poisoned bread, as he wished to lay it about for the rats. In spite of this warning, Mr. Berndt partook of some of the bread, but asserted that he did not take any of the poisonous bread, and when urged to see a doctor declined to do so. Emetics were, however, administered, and the patient retired to rest for the night. Next day it was found necessary to send for a medical man, and Drs. Wright and M'Laurin were called in; but all help was unavailing, and the patient died about 10.30 on the following morning. The jury returned a verdict that "Frederick Berndt died from the effects of a poison known as 'Rough on Rats,' but as to his motive in taking it there is no evidence to show." They further added, "We consider Mr. Uhde guilty of gross neglect in not sending for a medical man immediately after the poison was taken."

A special meeting of the Pharmaceutical Council was held at the society's rooms on Wednesday, 17th November, to meet Messrs. Pond and Bonnington, the New Zealand representatives at the recent Conference, prior to their return to New Zealand, all the members being present with the exception of Messrs. Mayne and Bozon. A friendly discussion ensued upon the various resolutions passed at the late Conference, principally that relating to the reciprocity of certificates, and the meeting terminated.

On Tuesday, 16th November, Messrs. Pond and Bonnington were taken for a trip round the harbour by the Sydney pharmacists, among those present being Messrs. Melhuish, Rigney, Abraham, M'Carthy, Sadler, Allison, Castel, Towle, Jackson, Thornton, Wells, J. A. Rose, Jones, Lewis, Hallam, and Hume. Owing to a misunderstanding, Mr. A. J. Watt missed the boat by going to the wrong wharf. Mr. Larmer, the president of the Pharmaceutical Society, was unable to attend through an illness in his family. The boat—a private steam launch—left the floating jetty, Circular Quay, about 3 o'clock, and headed for Middle Harbour, one of the prettiest side-nooks of Port Jackson, where the

party partook of a luncheon. The health of Messrs. Pond and Bonnington, proposed by Mr. Melhuish, was responded to by Mr. Pond, who said that their visit to Sydney had afforded them great pleasure, and they would always remember that afternoon's trip with gratification. In conclusion, he thanked them all very heartily for their kindness, and, in drinking the health of those present, coupled with the toast the name of Mr. Harry Shillinglaw, to whose energy, tact, and ability the successful issue of the Conference was greatly due. Mr. Towle suitably responded on behalf of Mr. Shillinglaw. "The Wholesale Trade" was proposed by Mr. Sadler, and responded to by Mr. J. A. Rose (Elliott Bros.), and after Messrs. Sadler, Wells, and Towle had amused the company with some capital songs, a return was made to Sydney about 6 o'clock.

Messrs. Pond and Bonnington left Sydney for New Zealand on Thursday, 18th November, by the steamer *Manapouri*, when several Sydney pharmacists assembled on the quay to bid them *bon voyage*.

There is at present in the Botanic Gardens a very interesting plant known as the *Agave marmorata*, of the order Amaryllidæ. The stalk of the plant mentioned is about 25 feet in height, and it is from the upper portion of this that flowers of a bright orange colour are seen in compact racemelets. It is believed that this is the only plant of the kind in the colony; certainly it is the first one that has blossomed out into flowers. Although a native of North and South America, and allied to the American aloe plant, yet the *Agave marmorata* is quite a distinct species. The development of the plant is peculiar. After growing for fifteen or twenty years, according to the locality where it is planted, the plant, which gradually sends upwards the stalk above described, is seen to shrivel at the base, the stalk drawing the sap gradually upwards as it develops. After flowering, the entire plant is seen to wither away and bear the appearance of being quite dead. This is not the case, however; for soon a new and fresh plant, or rather, more properly speaking, a cluster of new plants is seen to spring up from the roots of the old one, and so it develops into a plant similar to that already described.

At a meeting of the Board of Technical Education held at the offices, Phillip-street, on Wednesday, 24th November, several applications for the formation of classes and the delivery of lectures in the country districts were considered. The instructor in agriculture reported that, from the statements of farmers and others with whom he was brought into contact during his recent lecturing tour, he believed that fully fifty students, willing to pay £100 per annum each, would attend an agricultural college if established in the colony. Reports were also received from the instructors in chemistry and applied mechanics respecting examinations of colonial soils and clays made by them. Amongst others, the following recommendation was adopted:—That Mr. P. J. Edmunds be engaged to deliver a course of six popular lectures in the Technical College on "The Metals," to be illustrated experimentally.

The board of management of the Sydney United Friendly Societies' Dispensary held a meeting on Tuesday, 30th November, to further proceed with the questions of selecting a site for the dispensary and appointing a dispenser. The site chosen is situate in Elizabeth-street, Hyde Park, probably the most central position as regards access from every part of the city that could have been chosen. It is anticipated that the dispensary will be opened on the 1st January next.

The official lists of candidates who passed the senior and junior examinations at the University of Sydney at the public examinations held in the month of October have just been completed. It appears that the total number who presented themselves was 965, 107 being seniors, and 858 juniors. Of the former

83, and of the latter 547, were successful. In subjects of Latin—Seniors, 56 entered, 32 passed; juniors, 278 entered, 138 passed. Inorganic chemistry—Seniors, 20 entered, 10 passed; juniors, 19 entered passed. Botany—Seniors, 8 entered, 6 passed. Now, considering that a total of 88 pass a University examination in Latin at one examination, surely the intending pharmacists can, with a little steady application, manage to pass in the same subject the preliminary examination of the Pharmacy Board, which, if anything, is easier than that of the University.

At the Central Police Court on 23rd November, John Brown, described as a chemist, was called upon to answer the information of Inspector Robert Anderson that he (the defendant) did, on the 11th November last, sell to one William Henry Stanwell a certain poison, to wit, strychnine, without having first received a certificate from the Board of Pharmacy of New South Wales declaring that he is duly qualified to be a dealer in poisons. The defendant pleaded guilty to the charge. He was fined £10, and was ordered to pay 6s. 8d. costs, in default a distress warrant to be issued, or two months' imprisonment. The money was paid.

The Government have decided to place £8000 on the Estimates for the erection of a physical laboratory at the Sydney University. The professor of physics will instruct the pupils not only how to work the instruments used in their studies, but also how to construct the instruments, the latter branch of instruction being introduced for the first time in the colonies.

A fire broke out in the Sydney Hospital a few weeks ago, but was extinguished before much damage was done.

Mr. A. Norrie, who took a trip to the old country, has returned to Sydney. Mr. Hurworth is also back in Sydney again, having been away in Queensland for somewhat over two years.

Mr. Jones, of Summer Hill, has sold his business to Mr. Brothwood, who will carry it on under the management of Mr. Prinsep, lately arrived from England.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE monthly meeting of the Pharmaceutical Council was held at the society's rooms on Tuesday, 7th December, at 10.30 a.m., the following members being present, viz.:—Messrs. Melhuish, Sadler, Mayne, M'Carthy, Bozon, Abraham, and Pinhey.

A letter was received from Mr. Larmer resigning his position as president of the society on account of sickness in his family and of his inability to attend the meetings, and thanking the members for the kindness and courtesy they had displayed towards him during his term of office. The resignation was accepted on the motion of Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Melhuish, and a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Larmer for his past services to the society.

Mr. Abraham proposed that Mr. Sadler be elected president until the end of the term, *vice* Mr. Larmer (resigned.) Mr. M'Carthy seconded the motion, which was then put and carried.

On taking the chair Mr. Sadler thanked the members for the honour they had conferred upon him, and begged their kind assistance in upholding the dignity of the office.

It was proposed by Mr. Bozon, seconded by Mr. Mayne, and carried unanimously, that Mr. T. B. Melhuish be appointed examiner, *vice* Mr. Larmer (retired).

The papers relative to the Conference were placed on the table, but nothing was done with them on account of arrears of business having to be cleared up,

no meeting having been held last month other than the special meeting, owing to the absence of three of the members in Melbourne.

It has not yet been definitely decided who will fill the vacant seat on the Council, but my own opinion is that it rests between Mr. J. A. Rose (Elliott Brothers) and Mr. Bellamey, of Newtown. As you are no doubt aware, when any member of the Council retires before the expiration of his term of office, the president appoints someone to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

THE PHARMACY BOARD OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE monthly meeting of the Pharmacy Board was held on Tuesday, 7th December, Dr. M'Kay in the chair, when the application of M. J. Ryan—as having been in business in Victoria before 1st January, 1877—for registration was granted, and several certificates of apprenticeship were registered.

South Australia.

ON 16th November, after the return of the delegates from the Conference, a special meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society was called. There was a moderate attendance owing to the advertisement of meeting having been overlooked by several members.

The president, Mr. Harrison, was in the chair, and, after a brief speech, called upon Mr. L. Scammell to favour the meeting with his report of the Conference.

Mr. L. Scammell then gave some interesting details of Conference work, and mentioned particularly the very kind reception the delegates met with in Victoria.

Mr. Sowter being called on, added some further information to that already communicated by Mr. Scammell.

Mr. Hill was very pleased to notice the kindly feeling which existed between the pharmacists of Australasia as evidenced at the Conference meeting, and made some further approving remarks in reference to the latter.

The president then summed up in a speech, in the course of which he specially referred to a statement made by Mr. Sowter that 300 applicants for registration in Victoria had been refused in consequence of the Pharmacy Act, and argued that such an Act must therefore be a benefit, inasmuch as the trade was kept more select thereby.

Mr. White moved a vote of thanks to the delegates for the able manner in which they had carried out their duties. Seconded by Mr. Woodman and carried.

A vote of thanks to the members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, coupling with it the name of Mr. Harry Shillinglaw, for the hospitality and kindness shown to our delegates when in Victoria, was unanimously accorded, being proposed by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mr. Main.

The president spoke in congratulatory terms of the success of the first Conference.

After an unimportant discussion, the meeting terminated.

The ordinary monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, 7th December. There was a very good attendance. The president, in opening the meeting, called attention to the rule which provides that nominations for the election of office-bearers, which takes place in January next, must be sent in writing to the hon. sec. not later than 9th December. He then read a report received from

the Rev. Whitmore Carr, who is preparing students for the preliminary examination, in which he stated that, so far, fifteen had been studying, ten were now attending, and their progress was good in English and moderate in Latin. The chief business of the evening was the paper which Mr. Hill had promised to read before the society, and the president now called upon Mr. Hill to do so.

The paper was then read by Mr. Hill, who entitled it "The Birth and Progress of Pharmacy Acts." After taking his audience back to those primitive times when such pieces of legislation were unknown, he proceeded to trace the various causes that led to the foundation of the British Society, and ultimately to its securing State recognition and aid; and then, as one of the committee appointed to inquire into the working of Pharmacy Acts, he remarked, in passing, that his investigations led him to recommend the Pharmaceutical Society in South Australia to obtain an Act as soon as possible. Mr. Hill's paper was a very able and interesting one. It was listened to most attentively, and heartily applauded.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Hill was unanimously accorded.

The hon. treasurer, Mr. Poole, presented an approximate report of the financial state of the society, showing its monetary matters to be in a satisfactory condition, and the meeting terminated.

The prosecution of Mrs. Brady is not to be proceeded with, the Crown solicitor having given it as his opinion that there is no case.

Mr. C. Bishop has started a bottle making industry in this colony, and some well made specimens of sodawater bottles were shown at a recent meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society.

Rev. — Hopkins has been requested to prepare papers for the preliminary examination to be held on the 15th December.

New Zealand.

A MEETING of the Pharmacy Board was held in Auckland on 23rd November to meet the delegates who had returned from the Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference. After fully considering the proceedings of the Conference and the part taken in it by the New Zealand representatives, it was resolved "that the action of the two delegates from New Zealand be confirmed and approved." It was also resolved to notify the Colonial Secretary of the proceedings of the Intercolonial Conference, and to request that the resolutions to be forwarded by the Secretary of the Conference be given effect to.

Your columns have already given the names of the new board, which will take office on 1st January, 1887. As, by arrangement, only seven members were nominated, there was no contest, this being the number required by the Act, the gentlemen elected being:—George Bonnington, Christchurch; J. A. Pond, Auckland; J. V. Ross, Christchurch; E. C. Skog, Christchurch; C. J. Wilson Christchurch; T. M. Wilkinson, Dunedin; G. Mee, Wellington. The headquarters of the board for the ensuing triennial period will, therefore, be in Christchurch.

At a meeting of the board, held on the 2nd December, the reports from the examiners were presented, from which it was found that the following candidates had been successful in the last examination, held on the 21st of October:—

	Marks.
S. Donaldson, Auckland ...	... ... ... 83 per cent.
M. H. Wilton, Wellington ...	... ... ... 79 ,, ,,
E. Ward, Dunedin ...	... ... ... 72 ,, ,,

A good deal of routine business was also disposed of preliminary to the retirement of the present board from their duties.

The success of the Conference lately held in your city and the certainty of reciprocity having been arranged, and requiring only a few technical difficulties to be removed before being an accepted fact, is a matter of great satisfaction to all concerned. There can be no doubt that the new board will earnestly endeavour to give effect to the resolutions adopted by the Conference, and thus bring the labours of the delegates to a satisfactory conclusion, so far as this colony is concerned.

Notes on Society Meetings.

IN an address recently delivered to the students of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, Sir Henry Acland, president of the General Medical Council, thus referred to the proposed research laboratory:—"This is not the occasion, nor am I entitled, to speak in detail on the future of an institution of this kind. But it is clear that among the dangers of our time is the multiplication of tools of doubtful temper, and the flooding the already over-stocked armoury of medicine with useless weapons, to the distraction of students to the injury of true physic, and the vexatious overloading the stores, and increasing the labour of the practical dispenser and druggist. To the many honourable manufacturers of chemicals to whom the medical profession, as well as retail pharmacists throughout the country, are greatly indebted for the purity, elegance, and value of many of their preparations, such an institution will be a protection against the less cautious dealers in the common market. I know no method by which the Medical Council might more usefully advance the progress of the Pharmacopœia, one of its most important duties, than by aiding research in this laboratory. It will also have a just claim on the large Government grant which is given annually to a committee, including, among its members, representatives of the Royal Society in every department of biological progress, as well as the presidents of the Medical Council, and of the colleges of physicians and of surgeons of England."

Dealing in his address with the question of an International Pharmacopœia, Sir Henry made some very gratifying references to colonial pharmacy, which will prove of special interest to our readers:—"It is a source of regret that no steps have been taken to obtain representatives from India, the Dominion of Canada, and Australasia, to co-operate in England directly in future researches connected with the Pharmacopœia. This would seem more desirable and reasonable, as, by a recent Act, colonial and foreign practitioners are to be entered upon the Medical Register after the present year. The Medical Council is not likely to depart from the course it has adopted with so much success of allying itself with representative members of the Pharmaceutical Society. On this body, by law, devolves the responsibility of educating and qualifying the future pharmacists of Great Britain. It has always shown energy and administrative capacity in the development and fulfilment of this important and national obligation. It is a special privilege to be able to express this sentiment in the presence, as I am informed, of two distinguished pharmacists of Australia." Sir Henry Acland has no sympathy with the contention that modern pharmacists are being over-educated, and that the highly-educated pharmacist will interfere with the functions of medical practitioners. "Experience and observation show," he observed, "that this is a fallacy arising from a mistaken reading of the past. The uneducated and ignorant step in where better men will not interfere. Moreover," he added,

"it is not true to say that the pharmacist has no concern with the action of the agents which he dispenses. Theoretically and professionally he has not. Practically he has. He dare not dispense that which he believes to be dangerous in the quantity written. Therefore he has to know the danger point of all dangerous substances that are in use. . . . A dispenser of intelligence is an observant and thoughtful person, and brings a watchful, and often a critical, sense to bear on all that passes through his hands."

In his concluding remarks Sir Henry paid a generous tribute to the dignity of the pharmaceutical profession, and gave some excellent advice, which we have much pleasure in reproducing for the benefit of our younger readers:—"There is no occupation in life," he said, "in which personal character tells more than in the duties of a dispenser. They are replete with interest of the most varied kind. The details are to him drudgery or pleasure, as he makes them to be. Cleanliness, exactitude, order, punctuality, shrewdness, become a habit which is simple delight. If you have not these habits and this delight, disorder and discomfort, dissatisfaction and dirt will be your daily lot. If you have, the most practical among you will live on the borderland—I would rather say within the boundaries—of science, and be in relation to the sufferings and sorrows and troubles of your fellow-men, and become their friend. This is no ideal fancy. In a few masterly words, one to whom you and all pharmacists are deeply indebted, the venerable Professor Redwood pointed out long since that, whereas the business of the druggist in the last century was generally a paltry trade, the occupation of the skilled pharmacist is becoming one in which education and science are essential to gain the position which pharmacy deserves, and which it is obtaining in this country, as on the continent of Europe."

At the conclusion of Sir Henry's address, Mr. Bosisto, having been specially requested to move the vote of thanks, said that he had been absent from England for just upon forty years, and to be thus privileged was to him one of the greatest pleasures he had had since his return to his native land. It was satisfactory for him to know that, while they had men in Great Britain who were endeavouring to teach the rising generation, they had men in distant colonies under the flag of Great Britain who were fulfilling similar functions for their youth, and they had a body of young men rising up amongst them in Australia who would set before these colonies knowledge such as they thought those in England possessed. He himself was once a student of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, to which, whatever knowledge he had since attained, he owed a great deal, and he concluded with the hope that the society would send forth men into the various colonies who would be able to do their work in the future as those who had formerly been students had done for nearly forty years.

At the annual meeting of the North of England Pharmaceutical Association, on 8th October, the president, Mr. Martin, made some very pertinent remarks on the necessity of union among pharmacists, which we would recommend to the careful consideration of our Australian readers. "There were about 13,000 registered chemists and druggists, of whom only about 3600 were members of the Pharmaceutical Society; and of these only 1550 took a sufficient interest in its affairs to fill up their voting papers for the annually-elected Council. If the pharmacists of this country had been true to themselves and to their privileges, there was no calling which would have suffered so little at the hands of co-operative stores and the class of competition he had considered. At the present time they were doubtless passing through a crisis; but if every chemist and druggist would do his best to carry out not only

the letter, but the spirit of the Pharmacy Act, there need be little fear for the future. Let every registered chemist and druggist who was eligible join the Pharmaceutical Society, and take an active interest in the election and the acts of its Council. Let every registered chemist in future decline to take as an apprentice any youth who was not a fit and proper person to be trained for the business, and when he had taken him, use his moral influence to induce such apprentice to undergo a systematic course of instruction in some competent school of pharmacy, instead of wasting the greater part of his time, and then try to 'cram' in three months knowledge the acquisition of which ought fairly to have taken as many years. If chemists would do this they would probably fulfil the objects of the Pharmaceutical Society, and would, for a certainty, secure the elevation of pharmacy throughout this country."

At a meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, on 6th October, a letter was read from the Agent-General of New Zealand, enclosing a copy of a letter from the registrar of the Pharmacy Board of New Zealand, stating that, as the law stands, persons holding the certificates of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland cannot be registered in New Zealand without passing the examination of the Pharmaceutical Society of that colony.

At a recent meeting of the (London) Chemists' Assistants' Association an interesting discussion took place on pharmaceutical education and examination. Mr. T. S. Dymond, the vice-president, speaking of the Pharmaceutical Society, said that never for years had the attendance at the lectures been so poor. There was, he contended, only one thing that could save the society, viz., a system of compulsory education—the establishment of a curriculum; and he concluded by moving a resolution, which was eventually carried *nem. con.* :—"That this association is of opinion that a compulsory course of education *en rapport* with the examination is a trustworthy test of qualification."

In the course of his address at the annual meeting of the North of England Pharmaceutical Association, the president (Mr. N. H. Martin), while referring to the importance of the educational question, read a paragraph from a paper, written by the late Jacob Bell, on "The Constitution of the Pharmaceutical Society," which may profitably be reproduced at the present time (the italics are our own):—"The ultimate objects contemplated in this society are, the union of the chemists and druggists into one ostensible, recognised, and independent body, the protection of their general interests, and the advancement of the art and science of pharmacy. They consider that their own interest, as well as the safety and welfare of the public, demands that *no person shall become an apprentice in their business who has not had an adequate fundamental education*; and that no person shall dispense medicines who has not undergone an examination as a test of his competence to perform that important office."

M. HOUDE (*Répertoire*, August,) directs attention to the properties of *Thuja occidentalis*, which has long been used by homœopaths in the treatment of syphilitic growths and warts. He states that it is now given in France with equal success by allopaths, in doses of thirty drops of the fluid extract, night and morning.

SALICYLATE OF COCAINE IN ASTHMA.—Prof. Mosler, of Griefswald, recounts in the *Deutsche Med. Woch.* (No. 11, 1886), a number of cases of asthma which were cured by the hypodermic administration of salicylate of cocaine. Bromide of ammonium, given in the ordinary doses together with the injections, appeared to intensify their usefulness. The paroxysms were in nearly every instance lessened and shortened, if not entirely removed.

LIFE HISTORIES OF PLANTS.*

We have here before us a fascinating and much required little volume, from the pen of a man of scientific training, who as a biologist has gained some reputation.

The title page hardly bears out the fulness of the statements brought forth in this attractive book.

The work is divided into four parts, beginning with the comparative study of plants and animals on a physiological basis. Then follows the living cell, with its principal parts and properties.

The third part treats of the general descriptions of some of the lower forms of plant and animal life, commencing with *Gloeocapsa* and ending with *Selaginella*. In the last part the connection between flowerless and flowering plants is ably handled.

The writer tells us that the fertilised germ-cell or germ consists of living protoplasm, that it feeds in order to manufacture new plant or animal substance, grows, and as the active protoplasm wastes, requires oxygen for its renewal, gives off CO_2 and thus breathes;—that the germ is contractile, undergoes change of form, and possesses that general sensibility which is a fundamental property of living matter; and is, in an eminent degree, capable of division. Every plant and animal, he continues, begins with such a simple early stage, some never getting beyond it.

As an example the author adduces the yeast-plant, and shows that the Amœba, a simple animal, essentially agrees with the yeast-plant in its life processes.

As we ascend the scale of being, however, the various duties can no longer be efficiently performed in this primitive fashion, but require a division or reduction of labour.

The writer then proceeds to the classification of plants and animals, and points out that the reproductive organs of plants have always been the main test of their genealogical position, while the organs of vegetation, on which their nutrition and life depend, have been overlooked; but that in animals, while the reproductive organs are taken into account, other parts are not neglected; and that it will be the business of botanists in the future to regard, also, the protective, nutritive, and sensitive system, and the skeleton, as a basis for classification.

Here we have a diagram wherein the primary series of groups of plants and animals are compared. Afterwards the author pays attention to the essential parts of a plant, the root and shoot, and pointedly describes the various forms of the different groups in which the parts occur. Next he treats the body and limbs, the most typical forms of animals, in a similar manner to the roots and shoots of plants. The special functions of plant and animal are then taken up, along with the apparatus employed, and a tabular scheme is given to elucidate the relationship between plant and animal in this respect. Furthermore, the distinguishing features of each apparatus are pointed out, and the different forms with which plants and animals are endowed to carry on the functions of life, described.

There are two distinct influences at work upon every living being, the writer continues, viz.—the inorganic and organic conditions of life, or lifeless and living matter, and in an accompanying table he expounds the principal influences at work affecting the life of the organism.

* Life Histories of Plants. By Professor D. M'Alpine. London: Swann, Sonnenschein, Lowrey and Co.

The author further explains the terms "Life History and Development," and in diagrams clearly shows the typical life-histories of a sexual plant and sexually produced animals.

Finally, Chapter I. concludes with a comparative classification of plants and animals.

In Chapter II. the living cell, with its protoplasm, nucleus, etc., is tersely expounded.

Chapters III. to X. contain the descriptions and life-histories of some of the lower plants and animals; also diagrams of the sporangial and sexual reproduction of each genus, and each chapter is closed with a summary of the respective stages. The author begins with *Gloecapsa*, one of the lowest and simplest forms of plant-life. He then describes *Oscillatoria*, *Nostoc*, Yeast, *Bacteria*, etc.

Chapter IV. is devoted to the Diatoms, Desmids, and *Spirogyra*.

In Chapter V. we have examples of the lowest animal types, as *Chlamydo coccus*, *Pandorina*, *Eudorina*, *Volvox*, and others. Here it would not be amiss to introduce the interesting *Protomyxa aurantiaca*, which Professor Haeckel pronounces the lowest known animal, *Vaucheria*, and the fungi *Mucor*.

Phytophthora, *Saprolegnia*, and *Tilletia* occupy the next chapter.

In Chapter VII. examples of Algae and the genus *Chara* are brought forward.

We note in the following chapter that Mr. M'Alpine accepts in its main point Professor Schwendener's theory, viz., that the lichen is a compound organism, consisting of fungal and algal elements. This, it appears to us, is somewhat premature. Although there seems to be a readiness to accept the position of Schwendener, yet many of the most eminent botanists decidedly declare themselves against it. Let us quote the Rev. M. J. Berkeley and Dr. M. C. Cooke:

"Professor Schwendener first propounded his views in 1868, and then briefly and vaguely stated that all and every individual lichen was but an algal which had collected about it a parasitic fungal growth, and that those peculiar bodies which, under the name of gonidia, were considered as special organs of lichens, were only imprisoned algae. This hypothesis, ushered upon the world with all the prestige of the professor's name, was not long in meeting with adherents, and the cardinal points insisted upon were:—First—That the generic relationship of the coloured gonidia to the colourless filaments which compose the lichen thallus had been assumed and not proved. Second—That the membrane of the gonidia was chemically different from the membrane of the other tissues, inasmuch as the first had a reaction corresponding to that of algae, whilst the second had that of fungi. Third—That the different forms and varieties of gonidia correspond with parallel types of algae. Fourth—That, as the germination of the spore had not been followed further than the development of a hypothallus, it might be accounted for by the absence of the essential algal on which the new organism should become parasitic. Fifth—That there is a striking correspondence between the development of the fructification in lichens and in some of the sporidiferous fungi (*Pyrenomycetes*)."

These five points have been combated incessantly by lichenologists, who would really be supposed by ordinary minds to be the most practically acquainted with the structure and development of these plants, in opposition to the theorists. Dr. E. Bornet, in his *Récherches sur les Gonidies des Lichens*, came to the aid of Schwendener, and almost exhausted the subject, but failed to convince either the lichenologist or mycologist. Dr. Nylander, in referring to this hypothesis of an imprisoned algal, writes:—"The absurdity of such an hypothesis is evident from the very consideration that it cannot be the case

that an organ (gonidia) should at the same time be a parasite, on the body of which it exercises vital functions; for with equal propriety it might be contended that the liver or spleen constitutes parasites of the mammiferæ. Parasite existence is autonomous, living upon a foreign body, of which nature prohibits it from being at the same time an organ. This is an elementary axiom of physiology. But observation directly made teaches us that the green matter originally arises within the primary chlorophyll—or phyoecrom—bearing cellule, and consequently is not intruded from any external quarter, nor arises in any way from parasitism of any kind. The cellule at first is observed to be empty, and then, by the aid of secretion, green matter is gradually produced in the cavity, and assumes a definite form. It can, therefore, be very easily and evidently demonstrated that the origin of green matter in lichens is entirely the same as in other plants."

The same eminent authority in Regensburg "Flora" remarks:—"As to the supposed algoid nature of gonidia, such an unnatural existence as they would thus pass, enclosed in a prison and deprived of all autonomous liberty, is not at all consonant with the manner of existence of the other algae, and that it has no parallel in nature, for nothing physiologically similar occurs anywhere else."

Krempelhuber has argued that there are no conclusive reasons against the assumption that the lichen-gonidia may be self-developed organs of the lichen proper rather than algae, and that these gonidia can continue to vegetate separately, and so be mistaken for unicellular algae. But there is one strong argument, or rather a repetition of an argument already cited, placed in a much stronger light, which is employed by Nylander in the following words:—"So far are what are called algae, according to the turbid hypothesis of Schwendener, from constituting true algae, that, on the contrary, it may be affirmed that they have a lichenose nature, whence it follows that these pseudo-algae are in a systematic arrangement to be referred rather to the lichens; and that the class of algae hitherto so vaguely limited should be circumscribed by new and truer limits."

Dr. Thwaites has communicated his views on one phase of this controversy, and these will serve to illustrate the question as seen from the mycological side. As is well known, this writer has had considerable experience in the study of the anatomy and physiology of all the lower cryptogams, and any suggestion of his on such a subject will at least commend itself to a patient consideration. "According to our experience," he writes, "I think parasitic fungi invariably produce a sad effect upon the tissues they fix themselves upon or in. These tissues become pale in colour, and in every respect sickly in appearance. But who has ever seen the gonidia of lichens the worse for having the hypha growing amongst them? These gonidia are always in the plumpest state, and with the freshest, healthiest colour possible. Cannot it enter into the heads of these most patient and excellent observers that a cryptogamic plant may have two kinds of tissue growing side by side without the necessity of one being parasitic upon the other, just as one of the higher plants may have half a dozen kinds of tissue making up its organisation?"

It appears to us that a great deal of confusion and a large number of errors which creep into our modern generalisations and hypotheses may be traced to the acceptance of analogies for identities. How many cases of mistaken identity has the improvement of microscopes revealed? This, at least, should serve as a caution for the future. Apart, however, from the "gonidia"—whatever they may be—is the remainder of the lichen a genuine fungus?

Nylander writes:—"The anatomical filamentose elements of lichens are distinguished by various characters from the hyphæ. They are firmer, elastic, and at once present themselves in the texture of lichens. On the other hand,

the hyphæ of fungi are very soft, they possess a thin wall, and are not at all gelatinous ; while they are immediately dissolved by the application of hydrate of potash, etc.

Our own experience is somewhat to the effect that there are some few lichens which are doubtful as to whether they are fungi or lichens ; but, in by far the majority of cases, there is not the slightest difficulty in determining, from the peculiar firmness and elasticity of the tissues, minute peculiarities which the practised hand can detect rather than describe. It is true that a great number of lichens at first sight, and casually, resemble species of *Hysteriacei*, but it is no less strange than true that lichenologists and mycologists know their own sufficiently not to commit depredations on each other.

Our conclusions are these : That lichens and fungi are closely related the one to the other, but that they are not identical ; that the gonidia of lichens are part of the lichen organisation, and consequently are not algae or any introduced bodies ; that there is no parasitism ; and that the lichen thallus, exclusive of gonidia, is wholly unknown amongst fungi.

The Rev. J. M. Crombie, in his paper on the Lichen-Gonidia Question has our sympathies in the remark with which his summary of the gonidia controversy closes, in which he characterises it as a "sensational romance of lichenology," of "the unnatural union of a captive algal damsel and a tyrant, fungal master." So much for the Algo-Lichen hypothesis.

In the same chapter Professor M'Alpine ably handles *Peziza*, *Ascobolus*, and other fungi. The two concluding chapters of the third part the author devotes to the Liverwort, Moss, Fern, Horsetail, Pillwort, and Selaginella.

Finally, in Chapter XI., the connection between flowerless and flowering plants is plainly set forth.

Ere concluding our notice of this interesting work some minor points necessitate our attention. Page 30, Fig. 6—*Agaricus melleus* is called mushroom, but the true mushroom is classed under the sub-genus *Psalliota*; and of British species two only are regarded as mushrooms, viz.—*Agaricus arvensis*, horse mushroom ; and *Ag. campestris*, common mushroom—whereas *Ag. melleus* belongs to the sub-genus *Armillaria*, and should be called Honey-coloured *Armillaria* or *Agaric*.

In Fig. 7, also, the name common brown mould is somewhat misleading, for although the sporangia and sporidia are at first brown, they soon become blackish, but the whole plant has a delicately white aspect, which may be observed by bringing fresh horse-dung into a damp, confined atmosphere, as under a bell-glass, when, after a few days, a large mass of white filaments will appear on its surface. *Mucor mucedo* is generally known as common mould.

We also miss a few introductory remarks and the date of publication.

On the other hand, it is an elegantly got up work, and bears evidence of painstaking research, although it must of necessity be, in some respects, a resumé of the scattered records of other observers. Its worth to the reader is enhanced by abundant and good woodcuts and diagrams.

What the author has aimed at is ably and clearly done, and we cordially congratulate him on this pleasant and instructive volume, which we strongly recommend to all lovers of natural history, and particularly to pharmaceutical students, on account of the excellent descriptions given of the life histories of *Claviceps purpurea*, the ergot, and of *Aspidium filix-mas*, the male shield fern, with which all pharmaceutical students should be familiar.

We do not hesitate to affirm that we have never met with a work which we can more unreservedly praise. It will well repay perusal by all thoughtful and intelligent readers.

Formulæ: Original and Selected.

DIARRHŒA MIXTURES.

THE *American Druggist* gives the following among other formulæ:—R Tinet. capsici., fl. dr., 1; spir. menthae pip., fl. dr., 2; tinet. opii., fl. dr., 3; tinet. catechu. co., tinet. kino., tinet. krameriæ, spir. camphoræ, aquæ, aa fl. dr., 4. Mix. Dose—30 to 60 minims.

THE *British Medical Journal* writes:—The administration of very small frequently-repeated doses of calomel is recommended by Dr. Musser, of Philadelphia, in the treatment of summer diarrhœa and vomiting of infancy. In severe cases he recommends a powder containing one-eighth to one-twentieth of a grain of calomel, combined with one-twelfth to one-fourth of a grain of Dover's powder if there be much pain, fever, or restlessness. These ingredients, combined with a small quantity of powdered sugar, make a very minute powder, which is placed dry on the tongue and washed down by a spoonful of water, with or without stimulant. He recommends that the dose should be repeated every half hour at first.

ARTIFICIAL MILK FOR INFANTS.—Dr. J. M. Keating gives the following formula for a prepared cow's milk for infant feeding. He has compressed tablets prepared after the following formula:—Sugar of milk, twenty-six grains; calcii lactophosphatis, one-sixth of a grain; calcii carbonatis, one-twelfth of a grain; sodii bicarbonatis, one-half of a grain; potassi bicarbonatis, one-twelfth of a grain; sodii chloridi, one-sixth of a grain. For a young infant he says:—Take three ounces of boiling water and stir in one ounce of ordinary milk; to this add three tablets and dissolve thoroughly, place the mixture in a nursing bottle, and add one ounce of good, fresh cream. Shake well, and give to the child at about the temperature of the body. This is for a child of a month old. For older children the quantities are increased in proportion.—*Provincial Medical Journal.*

A NEW LIP SALVE—

Cocoa butter	...	...	...	...	...	10 drachms
Castor oil	...	...	...	...	...	3 "
Extract of catechu	...	...	...	...	...	1 "
Oil of sweet birch	...	...	...	...	...	8 drops
Oil of aniseed	...	...	...	...	...	20 "

—*Jnl. Pharm. et Chim.*

NEURALGIC OINTMENT—

Menthol	...	...	...	...	...	45 grains
Cocaine	...	...	...	...	...	15 "
Chloral	...	...	...	...	...	10 "
Vaseline	...	...	...	...	...	5 drachms

To be applied to the painful part (Galezowski).

—*Jnl. Pharm. et Chim.*

CORNS.—The application of liquor potassæ two or three times a day is said to have an excellent effect upon corns. It will remove them in the course of a month or so. A thousand and one things have been recommended and tried for corns, but where is the one good and effective remedy?

A CURE FOR A COLD.—When a cold sets in, the following treatment is recommended by a contemporary:—A dose of thirty grains of pot. bromide is given. The dose to be repeated in six hours, and, if necessary, a third dose six hours later. When the discharge begins, fifteen drops of tinet. belladonna are to be taken every hour or two till the throat feels dry. The painting of the mucous membrane of the nose with cocaine gives great relief, and aids in completing the cure.

TOOTH POWDERS.—The following is recommended by a correspondent of the *Dental Record* for the use of persons with sensitive or painful teeth, or tender and spongy gums:—

Calc. phosph. præcip.	...	...	...	...	ʒij.
Cretæ præcip.	...	...	...	...	ʒj.
Pulv. sacchar. lact.	...	...	...	...	ʒj.
Cocainæ hydrochlor.	...	...	...	...	grs. ij.
Eugenol	...	...	...	...	m _{xvi} .

Dissolve the cocaine in a little alcohol, mix it with the eugenol, and add this solution to the calcium phosphate previously warmed, mix well, and add the other ingredients, stirring the whole in a mortar until the powder is homogeneous.

THE PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA QUARTERLY EXAMINATIONS.

THE following were the questions:—

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION—1ST DECEMBER, 1886.

Time allowed, three hours.

LATIN.—Translation and Grammar; Caesar, *De Bello Gallico*, Book I.

(1) Translate closely and literally—(a) Flumen est Arar, quod per fines Aeduorum et Sequanorum in Rhodanum influit incredibili lenitate, ita ut oculis in utram partem *fluat* judicari non possit. Id Helvetii ratibus ac lintribus *junctis* transibant. Ubi per exploratores Caesar certior *factus est* tres jam partes copiarum Helvetios id flumen transduxisse quartam vero partem citra flumen Ararim reliquam esse, de tertia vigilia cum legionibus *tribus e castris profectus* ad eam partem pervenit quae nondum flumen *transierat*. (b) Dum ea *conquiruntur* et conferuntur, nocte intermissa circiter hominum milia vi ejus pagi, qui Verbigenus appellatur, sive timore *perterriti* ne armis traditis suppicio afficerentur, sive spe salutis inducti quod in tanta multitudine *dediticiorum* suam fugam aut occultari aut omnino ignorari posse *existimarent*, prima nocte e castris Helvetiorum *egressi* ad Rhenum finesque Germanorum contenderunt.

(2) Parse the italicised words in the above.

(3) Answer carefully the following questions on the above extracts:—

- (a) State and illustrate the rule for the agreement of the relative pronoun.
- (b) What synonyms for “flumen” do you know? How do you distinguish them?
- (c) Why is “fluat” subjunctive?
- (d) What is the exact force of the imperfect “transibant”?
- (e) What does the participle “profectus” agree with?
- (f) Is the meaning of the perfect participles of deponent verbs active or passive?
- (g) Explain the force of the conjunctive particles *sive . . . sive*.
- (g) What does the participle “egressi” agree with? Is it active or passive in meaning?

(4) Decline substantive *scelus*, pronoun *alter*, adjective *major*.

(5) Give principal parts and meanings of—*peto*, *præbeo*, *queror*, *rumpo*, *ulciscor*, *venio*, *volvo*.

(6) Write out in full—Present subjunctive active of *affigo*. Future indicative active of *comperio*. Past imperfect subjunctive active of *aedifico*. Present indicative passive of *nutrio*.

(7) Translate into Latin—(a) When he had given this answer, he went away. (b) Caesar found out that these things were true. (c) At dawn of day, the top of the mountain was held by Labienus.

ENGLISH.—Grammar and Composition.

- (1) Give the full analysis of the following sentence:—“Besides, I do not find that the consuls had ever a negative voice in the passing of a law.”

- (2) Parse every word which is in italics in the following:—

But knowledge to their eyes her ample page
Rich with the spoils of time did ne'er unroll;
Chill penury repressed *their* noble rage
And *froze* the genial current of the soul.

- (3) Write a short piece of composition, with careful spelling and punctuation, on "The climate of Victoria;" or, "The evil of selfishness in character." [N.B.—Good careful composition tells greatly in the candidate's favour.]

ARITHMETIC.—First four rules, simple and compound; vulgar and decimal fractions, and simple and compound proportion. British and Metrical systems of Weights and Measures.

- (1) A farmer sold at a fair 320 sheep, at £3 13s. 6d. each, and bought 54 cows, at £15 11s. each: how much money did he take home?

$$(2) \text{Find value of } \frac{7}{8} \text{ £} + \frac{7}{8} \text{ of £2 16s.} = \frac{7}{8} \text{ of £4.}$$

- (3) Reduce to lowest terms and express as a decimal

$$\frac{2\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{3} \text{ of } 2\frac{1}{4} + 1\frac{1}{5}}{(2\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{3}) \text{ of } (2\frac{1}{4} + 1\frac{1}{5})}$$

- (4) If $\frac{5}{6}$ of a ton is worth £5 12s., what is the value of $\frac{2}{3}$ of a cwt.

- (5) The railway fares in Prussia are two-thirds of those in England: if it costs £1 2s. 6d. to travel 180 miles in England, what will it cost to travel 160 miles in Prussia.

- (6) A metre being = 39.371 inches nearly, find how many miles there are in 50 kilometres.

EXAMINATION FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY, MELBOURNE.

2ND AND 3RD DECEMBER, 1886.

MATERIA MEDICA.

Time allowed, two hours.

- (1) Mention the geographical and botanical sources of the following drugs:—

- (a) Cinchonine. (b) Strychnine. (c) Cevadilla. (d) Jaborandi. (e) Cocaine
(f) Chrysophanic acid.

- (2) Define fully Kamala, Galls, Spanish Juice, Indigo, and Elaterium.

- (3) Why is cold water ordered to be used in making the Infusions of Calumba and Quassia?

- (4) What are the physical characters and chemical tests of—(a) Guaicum resin. (b) Aloes. (c) Copaya.

- (5) Mention the habitat, characters, and use of the genus "Sanguisuga."

- (6) Which official drugs are obtained from the natural orders Leguminosæ and Compositeæ?

- (7) Name the official parts—preparations, their composition and doses—of *Prunus laurocerasus*; *Conium maculatum*; *Atropa belladonna*; *Artemisia maritima*.

BOTANY.

Time allowed, two hours.

- (1) Define, and illustrate, the following terms:—Corm, Bulb, Tuber, Rhizome, Prickle, Spine.

- (2) Contrast exogenous and endogenous growth, and mention examples of each kind.

- (3) Describe the functions and structure of a leaf.

- (4) Describe, and illustrate, the various kinds of Placentation and of Dehiscence.

- (5) Sketch the life history of the "Aspidium filix-mas" and of the "Claviceps purpurea."

CHEMISTRY.

Time allowed, three hours.

- (1) Describe the commercial process of making Hydrochloric Acid.
- (2) Show, by equations, how Phosphorus is made.
- (3) How is Calomel made? What is a likely impurity, and how may it be removed?
- (4) Define briefly Realgar, Orpiment, Zeolite, Glass, Clay, Diamond, Emery, Kelp, Barilla, *Aqua Regia*.
- (5) Write equations, showing the action of Sulphuric Acid on Manganese dioxide, and on Potassium bichromate, respectively.
- (6) How are Tartarated Iron and Tartarated Antimony prepared? Illustrate by equations.
- (7) Illustrate, by examples from the elements, the changes in the physical states of matter under variations of temperature and pressure.
- (8) Write out the preparation, properties, and composition of commercial Ammonium carbonate.
- (9) What is meant by Quantivalence?
- (10) How is Iodoform made? For what does the reaction serve as a test?

6TH AND 7TH DECEMBER, 1886.

QUESTIONS IN PRACTICAL PHARMACY.

DIVISION I.—DISPENSING—PRACTICAL WORK.

Time allowed, fifteen minutes.

- (1) Read five autograph prescriptions.

Time allowed, twenty minutes.

- (2) Dispense at counter:—Mrs. Jones.—R. Ol. morrhuae, $\frac{3}{4}$ i; syr. aurant., $\frac{3}{4}$ i; aquam ad $\frac{3}{4}$ iv. Make an emulsion, using any suitable excipient; or, R. syr. scillæ, $\frac{3}{4}$ i; tr. camph. co., $\frac{3}{4}$ i; ether chlor., $\frac{3}{4}$ i; mist. ammoniac. ad $\frac{3}{4}$ vi. Misce S. A. Cap. $\frac{3}{4}$ s ter in die. The candidate may choose which of the mixtures he will dispense.

Time allowed, thirty minutes.

- (3) Dispense at counter:—Mrs. Smith.—R. Pil. galban. co., $\frac{3}{4}$ s; ext. nucis vom., grs. iii; pil. rhei. co., grs. xx. Ft. mas. et in pil. xii divid. argent. fol. involv. Cap. i vel ii omni alt. noct.

WRITTEN WORK.

Time allowed, two and a half hours.

- (1) Write fully in Latin, without abbreviation, and using words instead of signs for the quantities:—R. Acid sulph. dil. $\frac{3}{4}$ s; syr. rhœad. $\frac{3}{4}$ ii; tr. cardam. 3iii. Let a mixture be made, of which let the patient take one teaspoonful every six hours in any agreeable vehicle.

- (2) Write the quantities of ext. nucis vom., ext. can. ind., ergota, chloroform, and calumb. contained in each dose of the following mixture:—R. Tr. nucis vom. 3iii; tr. cannab. ind. 3iii; sp. chloroform 3ii; ext. ergotæ liq. 3iii; infus. calumb. ad $\frac{3}{4}$ x. Ft. mist., cap. $\frac{3}{4}$ s ter in die.

- (3) Give the weight in grammes of a fluid ounce of ether, S. G. 720. Give in grains the specific gravity of a liquid a fluid ounce of which weighs 26·32 grammes. Express according to the Metric Notation 946·321 grammes. Reduce to inches ·543 of a metre. How many grain measures are equal to 100 minimis?

- (4) Give the solubilities in cold water and in rect. spirit of—acid gallic, acid tannic, hyd. perchlor., chloroform, camphor.

(5) Give the doses of, and antidotes to, camphora, ext. cannabis indic., tinct. cantharides, iodum, ext. nucis vom.

(6) With what are the following substances incompatible?—Belladonna, ung. hyd. nitratis, kino, quin. disulph., ipecacuanha.

(7) Name the best excipients for potass. permang. in pill. How can Bismuth carb. best be suspended in mixtures? How can resinous tinctures best be suspended in mixtures? Which is the best acid to use with quinine in mixtures? What is the best excipient for quinine in pills?

DIVISION III.

Time allowed, two hours.

(1) What weight of KHO is contained in a solution of potash 48·02 grammes of which are saturated by 50 c.c. of standard solution of oxalic acid?

(2) What are the pharmacopoeia tests for the purity of the following:—Kreasote, acetum, P. sinapis, ether, aqua distillata, glycerinum.

(3) How is pyroxylin prepared? Describe the process.

(4) Give equations to illustrate the reactions which occur in the preparation of the following:—Pyroxylin, unguentum hydrargyri nitratis, ferri et ammonii citras, ferrum redactum.

(5) Describe as fully as you can the crystalline forms of the following:—Potassii bromidum, potasii iodidum, sodii chloridum, sodii sulphas, potassii nitratas, sodii sulpho-carbolas.

NORRIS AND CO.'S NEW PHARMACY.

MR. S. M. DALTON has been compelled to take the premises lately occupied by the City of Melbourne Building Society, adjoining his old place of business, in Chapel-street, Prahran, opposite the Town Hall, to meet the requirements of a large and ever-increasing business. After considerable outlay and extensive alterations, the building has been converted into one of the most complete, attractive, and commodious pharmacies in the colony. The shop is 43 feet 6 inches deep, with 22 feet frontage; the walls, ceiling, and fixtures have been modernised and greatly improved in appearance. The decorative work was entrusted to Mr. Bush, of Chapel-street, who has displayed most excellent taste and judgment in the blending and harmonising of the colours, the ceiling being especially attractive. A novelty has been introduced in the shape of the new patent Wenham gas lamp, of which three, of 50 candle-power each, are used in lighting. The lettering upon the windows and show cases has been carried out by Mr. E. Roberts, and the work is of a tasteful and artistic nature. The well-known speciality of the firm, i.e., "Norris' Condition Spice," receives due prominence by a faithful *fac simile* of the package in which this article is sent out being painted on the window at the entrance to the establishment. The dispensing arrangements have received Mr. Dalton's special attention, and are erected upon a floor nine inches above the level of the main floor, which has the advantage of giving the dispenser a full view of the shop, and allowing him to be always in sight of customers. This is an unmistakable advantage, and one of the most marked improvements in this establishment. Some effective and tasteful lettering has also been executed by Mr. Roberts for Messrs. Holdsworth and Smalley, dentists, who have operating and mechanical rooms on the premises. It is evident that Mr. Dalton has used the great space at his command to the very best advantage, and yet there does not seem to be an inch too much for the requirements of his extensive business. We have no doubt Mr. Dalton will meet with the hearty support his energy deserves, and we wish him every success.

Poisoning Cases.

WALTER CYBIL HOLLAND, aged twenty-one, who for several years was clerk on the steamer *Gem*, swallowed a dose of chlorodyne at the Apollo Inn, Melbourne, on Thursday night, the 9th December, intending, he said, to commit suicide. A constable was called in, and he removed Holland to the Melbourne Hospital. The treatment which he received there placed him beyond danger, and the constable lodged him in the city watch-house on a charge of having attempted suicide.

A LITTLE boy named E. R. Marks, whose parents reside at Ballarat, ate a number of wax matches on Monday, the 24th November, and became so ill that he was removed to the hospital for treatment. He died in the institution shortly after admittance, and, in a *post mortem* examination made, Dr. Scott found that death resulted from acute inflammation of the stomach, caused apparently by phosphorus.

INFORMATION was given to the Geelong police that an infant, Florence Ah Wong, aged 17 months, had died early in the morning of the 7th December from the poisonous effects of opium. The child, who lived with her parents in Bond-street, Chilwell, accidentally swallowed a small quantity of opium on the previous afternoon. Serious symptoms were manifested late at night, and a doctor was speedily in attendance, but all attempts to save the child's life were without success.

A FATAL case of snakebite occurred at Pastoria (about six miles from Kyneton) on Friday, the 3rd December. A boy named Denis Donovan, son of Mr. Michael Donovan, a small farmer, was out rabbit hunting. He followed a rabbit into a hole, into which he put his hand to pull the rabbit out. He quickly withdrew his hand, having been bitten, as he thought, by the rabbit. In a short time he manifested symptoms of poisoning, and died before assistance could be procured.

Trade Notes.

THE estate of Mr. Carl Klug, of Hamilton, has been compulsorily sequestered.

MR. R. J. FULLWOOD has purchased from Mr. Horace Brown his business in Park-street, South Melbourne.

A NEW pharmacy is about to be opened at Newport, near Williamstown, by Mr. A. Groening, late of Sandhurst.

MR. H. LONDON, late of Ballarat, has purchased from Dr. M'Call, of Euroa, the pharmacy lately carried on by him.

MESSRS. H. FRANCIS & Co. are the successful tenderers for drugs and medicines to be supplied to the Eye and Ear Hospital.

THE business of Mr. J. Thorburn MacGowan in Pickles-street, South Melbourne, has been sold to Mr. E. L. Halle. We are informed that Mr. MacGowan proposes opening a new pharmacy in North Carlton.

AFTER visiting every town in South Australia, Mr. R. H. Roe (Messrs. F. Stearns & Co., Detroit, U.S.) has returned to Victoria, and is well pleased with the very satisfactory business relations he has entered into for his firm in that colony. Mr. Roe purposes making only a short stay in Melbourne.

THE enterprising firm of Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., Snow Hill, London, have just opened offices in Planet Chambers, Collins-street East, Melbourne, under the

management of Mr. W. Shepperson, where samples of their goods can be inspected and all information obtained. We are informed that Mr. Shepperson will shortly commence another tour throughout the Australian colonies solely in Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co.'s interest.

Personalities.

LETTERS have been received by the last mail from Mr. W. J. Watkins, who was travelling in India.

WE regret to record, in the obituary of the month, the names of Mr. D. Robertson, late of Ballarat, but who recently established himself in business in Brunswick-street, Fitzroy, Mr. S. D. Hodgson, late of Darlington, and Mr. J. M. Paul, late of Nagambie.

WE are requested to draw special attention to the new syllabus of the College of Pharmacy, which appears in another column. The first 1887 session, which extends from the second Monday in January to the last Friday in May, will commence on Monday, the 10th January, 1887.

THE friends of Mr. E. Bage, of Messrs. Felton, Grimwade & Co., will learn with pleasure that his health has been greatly benefitted by his stay at Honolulu. Mr. Bage will, we understand, return to Melbourne by the next San Francisco mail, when we hope to announce his perfect restoration to health.

IN our notice of the visit of the delegates to the Intercolonial Conference to Ballarat, which appeared in this journal last month, an omission was made in not referring to the very kindly attention shown to the visitors by Mr. J. W. Scott, of Sturt-street, the hon. secretary of the Ballarat Chemists' Association.

MR. R. J. Wood, of 15 Napier-street, Fitzroy, is now preparing candidates for the next preliminary examination. Mr. Wood has had great experience in preparing candidates for this examination in England, and comes to this colony well recommended by Mr. R. Brumidge, the secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

MR. WM. WITT was, at the annual meeting of the South Suburban Chemists' Association, unanimously elected president for the ensuing year, and Mr. S. M. Dalton vice-president. A well-earned compliment was also paid to our old friend, Mr. G. F. Chamberlin, who was also unanimously elected hon. secretary and treasurer.

THE annual supper of the South Suburban Chemists' Association was held at the George Hotel, Chapel-street, on the evening of Wednesday, the 8th December. Mr. Witt, the newly-elected president, occupied the chair, and the vice-chair was filled by Mr. S. M. Dalton, the vice-president. There was a fair attendance, and an excellent supper was done full justice to. After the usual loyal toasts, proposed by the chairman, had been duly honoured, Mr. Tompsitt proposed "Success to the South Suburban Chemists' Association." The toast, which was very warmly received, was responded to by Mr. Witt, who, in turn, proposed "The Visitors," which was responded to by Messrs. Tompsitt and Shillinglaw, who both referred to the very important decision which had that day been given in the Supreme Court in the case of the Equitable Co-operative Society. The health of Mr. G. F. Chamberlin, the hon. secretary of the association, was duly honoured and drank in a very hearty manner. Mr. Corinaldi, in a eulogistic speech, proposed the health of Mr. H. T. Tompsitt. Messrs. Fripp, Bennett, Skoglund, Niemann, Coates, and Chamberlin contributed greatly to the success of the evening by some capital songs and recitations, and a most agreeable evening was spent.

New Insolvents.

CARL KLUG, of Hamilton, chemist. Compulsory sequestration. Causes of insolvency—Falling off in business, and through endeavouring to discharge liabilities contracted at the time of compounding with creditors in 1881. Liabilities, £1951 0s. 1d.; assets, £10; deficiency, £1941 0s. 1d. Mr. Robert Giles, assignee.

In the Insolvent Court on Monday, the 29th November (before Mr. C. P. Williams, Chief Clerk), a general meeting was held in the estate of Joseph Longstaff, of St. Kilda, chemist, at which Mr. H. W. Danby was appointed trustee, in place of Mr. W. J. Ecroyd, deceased.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

ANDREWS.—On the 2nd December, the wife of A. Andrews, chemist, High-street, St. Kilda, of a daughter.

MORISON.—On the 23rd November, at Barkly-street, Ararat, the wife of Alf. A. Morison, of a daughter.

MAIN.—On the 8th December, at Melbourne-street, North Adelaide, South Australia, the wife of W. J. Main, of a son.

WOOLCOTT.—On the 4th December, at Warracknabeal, the wife of John Newton Woolcott, of a son.

RICHARDS.—On the 4th December, at Swan-street, Richmond, the wife of A. C. Richards, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

WOOD—AHERN.—On the 9th October, at St. John's Church, Fremantle, Western Australia, by the Rev. D. Glyn Watkins, Vicar of Fremantle, Frederic Percy Wood, of Fremantle, to Bertha Ahern, also of Fremantle.

FRANCIS—WILKS.—On the 11th November, at Christ Church, St. Kilda, by the Rev. Stanley Low, Rawson Parke Francis, third son of George Baggett Francis, Vale House, Hertford, England, to Emma, daughter of John Wilks, St. Kilda.

FLACK—FIGGIS.—On the 25th October, at Launceston, by the Rev. John Lyle, Charles Harry Flack, Oakleigh, to Emma Figgis, youngest daughter of the late R. Bromby, Esq., of Harwick, Tasmania.

REID—CUNNACK.—On the 26th November, at the residence of the bride's parents, by the Rev. H. Howell, of Christ Church, G. Moore Reid, M.D., Castlemaine, to Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr. Geo. Cunnack, Castlemaine.

DEATHS.

GRIMWADE.—On the 24th November (suddenly), in his 75th year, Edward Grimwade, of Ipswich, England, father of F. S. Grimwade, of this city.

HEWLETT.—On the 20th November, at Carlton-street, Carlton, Robert (aged sixteen years), the youngest son of F. L. Hewlett.

WALTON.—On the 25th November, at her residence, Walton Villa, Gore-street, Fitzroy, Mary Walton, aged 75 years, after four years' illness.



WHEREAS under the provisions of the *Pharmacy Act* 1876, and of the regulations made thereunder, I, the undersigned, JOHN TURNER THOMAS, was appointed to be the Returning Officer, and to conduct the Elections of Members of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria; and whereas the offices of the persons elected Members of the said Pharmacy Board on the Sixth February, 1884, have become vacant by effluxion of time; and whereas under the provisions of the said *Pharmacy Act* 1876, and of the regulations made thereunder, the Returning Officer shall, in the month of February, in the year 1887, proceed to the ELECTION OF TWO PERSONS, being Registered Pharmaceutical Chemists of Victoria, to serve as Members of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria.

Notice is hereby given that I will, on the Eighth day of February, 1887, proceed to the ELECTION OF TWO PERSONS, being Registered Pharmaceutical Chemists, to serve as Members of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria; and also that if the number of persons nominated as hereinafter provided for is greater than the number of persons required to fill the vacancies created as aforesaid, a poll will be taken on the Eighth day of February, 1887.

Nomination Papers must be lodged or delivered by post at the office of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, Melbourne, before Four o'clock in the afternoon of the Twenty-sixth day of January, 1887.

Dated this Twenty-ninth day of November, 1886.

J. TURNER THOMAS, Returning Officer.

Pharmacy Board of Victoria, Swanston-street, Melbourne.

THE AUSTRALASIAN

ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
30 JUL. 31

MELBOURNE

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JUNE, 1885.

Original Communications.

SOME ECONOMIC TAN MATERIALS FROM NON-INDIGENOUS PLANTS CAPABLE OF CULTURE IN VICTORIA.

By J. BOSISTO, M.L.A., &c.

ALTHOUGH nothing seems to surpass or equal for general tan purposes the *Acacia Pyrenantha*, or *A. Decurrens* of Victoria, both commercially known as wattle bark, yet in the process of tanning other vegetable materials are required non-indigenous to this colony, but capable of successful cultivation. This has been pointed out on several occasions by Baron von Mueller, and strongly enforced by the Wattle Bark Commission of 1878, but up to the present time no concerted action has been taken either by the Forest Department or by joint private enterprise.

The *Rhus Coriaria* or Sumach can be seen growing luxuriantly as an isolated shrub in some of our gardens. So also the *Valonia Oak*, *Quercus Ceylops*, and other tan plants, giving strong evidence of the adaptability of the Victorian climate for the growth of most of the tropical and sub-tropical vegetation employed in tanning.

The growth of economic tan plants in Victoria would prove remunerative, and might occupy places on selections but little interfering with those crops needed for immediate wants. The sub-order Mimosæ, to which our wattles belong, is met with in all parts of the colony. A few species are too weak in tannin, such as *A. Dealbata*, for the tanner's use, but other *Acacias*, non-indigenous, would thrive and be useful. The *Acacia Arabic*, or the Indian Gum Arabic Tree, supplies a fine tan bark and gives to leather a pale buff colour. This bark is used extensively in all the tanneries of India. The seeds, pods, and leaves are also employed as tan materials. Many of the *Acacias*, and others belonging to the natural order of Leguminosæ, have legumes or pods in great abundance, varying in length from six to twenty-four inches, much sought after by the tanners. The *Divi Divi*, *Cæsalpinia* sp., is a great favourite with Indian tanners. The pod produces a bloom on leather, and it is asserted by these experts that, when the Victorian tanners use this article in fair proportion with wattle bark, a leather will be produced, both in substance, colour, and finish, superior to any produced by other tan materials. The *Terminalia* genus of the Combretaceæ order produces many varieties of the Indian Plum Fruit, known to commerce under the name of "Myrobolans," which would thrive on the arid plains of Victoria. These elegant trees are met with on the hill districts and plains of Central India, several species grouping together, each kind varying in tan power and colour greatly, but all thrown together for the foreign market. It is this fact which so often disappoints the tanners of Victoria and elsewhere when employing Myrobolans for tanning purposes, and very often to the injury of the hides.

The different kinds of Myrobolans, when in the soft plum condition, can be easily sorted, but after the pericarp has become dry and shrivelled there is great difficulty. The tan and colouring substances of the Myrobolan lies in this outer portion of the nut, and as there are eight species of true Myrobolans, and also two or three from another genus termed "Emble," some of these containing but little tannin, the difficulty of knowing one from the other, when in a dry state, becomes almost insurmountable, but the leading outside appearances of the three best sorts may be given as a guide.

T. Chebula.—From three-quarters to one and a quarter inch in length, having a broad base, fining off to a roundish point, five ribbed, well marked; in colour either a light or dark brown, with yellow lines or spots.

T. Belerica.—Not more than three-quarters of an inch long ; in shape a roundish ball, narrowed into a short stalk, slightly ribbed, in some instances smooth ; colour, a dark under layer of gamboge, slightly covered over with brown umber.

T. Citrini.—Very like **T. Chebula**. It is oblong or lanceolate ; colour, like a citron, with dark spots scattered over it.

Vegetable dyes for leather are still generally adhered to, although dyes from the tar products have materially changed the old dye materials for other purposes, but for leather the vegetable dyes are proved to be more durable and softer looking in the several rays of colour. The *Carthamus Tinctorus*, or Safflower—an annual, easy of cultivation, and reared from seed, flowers abundantly, and requires but little attention—is entirely neglected in its growth here, possibly for the want of the knowledge of preparing it for market. The following is the process employed. The flowers contain two colouring principles—a yellow and a red. To make Safflower marketable the yellow must be extracted : if left, it would detract from its value. To obtain the yellow the flowers must be soaked in water from twelve to twenty-four hours, afterwards trampled with the feet, occasionally watering, so as to remove the whole of the yellow colouring, the red remaining being insoluble in water. The flowers being in a semi-pulpy condition are then pressed and dried in the sun. You have then Safflower ready for the market. The yellow colouring is scarcely ever used for dyeing.

To continue obtaining many of our vegetable tan and dye materials from outside sources when we have soil, aspect, elevation, and climate adapted for their growth will not increase the productions of Victoria, nor add to the wealth of those who till the soil. These suggestions are therefore made.

PHARMACY AND PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA.

By C. R. BLACKETT.

*President of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, Hon. Mem. Ph. Soc. of Austria,
&c., &c.*

THE question of Pharmaceutical Education is one that has occupied us, and will still more claim our earnest attention in the future ; the great object towards which we ought to strive now should be a uniform system of training, teaching, and examination throughout Australasia. Our friends in New South Wales would seem to be alive to this pressing importance, and have summoned a conference, to be held at Sydney, for the purpose of discussing the various points of difference and difficulty. It is much to be thankful for, especially as New South Wales, being the oldest colony, very properly ought to take the lead, and Victoria will quite loyally and warmly afford all possible help and sympathy. It is fortunate that our brethren in New South Wales have decided upon holding a Pharmaceutical Conference at an early date. It is, perhaps, of more importance to the sister colony, as at present they are untrammelled by a Pharmacy Act. Legislation is all before them what to choose. They can most advantageously associate themselves in demanding the attention of the Government to this question, and in the light of the experience of Victoria, Queensland, and New Zealand, ought to obtain an act that will tend to do for Pharmacy in New South Wales what it has more or less successfully and happily done in Victoria—viz., the improvement of the condition and extension of the scientific education of the future generation of pharmacists. Above all things, it is earnestly to be hoped they all will unite with a large-hearted, broad-minded determination to sink all secondary and petty questions in the effort to attain something approaching uniformity of laws, and concordant curricula of education, and methods of examination, that Sydney should not differ from Melbourne more than London does from Edinburgh.

Lands intersected by a narrow frith abhor each other,

said the poet ; but we are of earth's best and youngest blood, and under the same sceptre, and all speak "the language Shakespeare spoke." The primary consideration to be kept in view at the Conference will be :—

1. That there be a Preliminary Examination before apprenticeship.
2. That the apprenticeship be of four years' duration.

3. That students should attend certain specified courses in college classes on Chemistry, Botany, *Materia Medica*, etc.
4. That they pass examinations in due course in these subjects, and a final and practical Examination in Pharmacy.

If these are attained, no future divergence will be likely to take place between the colonies. In fact, a federal council could be formed ultimately to meet alternately at the various capitals, to watch over and discuss all matters relating to Pharmacy in Australia, as well as for the purpose of advancing the progress of science in all its relations to Pharmacy. Steady work, hopeful courage, and high aims will assuredly accomplish all this, and more. As our more youthful members in this and the other colonies may not be seized of the past history of the rise and growth of Pharmacy in Victoria, we have thought it not inexpedient to give a brief history thereof, and also to address a few words of a didactic and encouraging character to those who have not been long in the ranks, or are only upon the threshold. Our ideal is a high one, and as we have always striven for it in the past, with still more emphasis and hope will push on towards its full realisation, not now, or during the few and lessening years that remain, but in that great future which imagination justifiably pictures—which is, or *may be*—in store for succeeding generations in this happy and beautiful continent of Australia. It will be in yourselves that you “are thus and thus.”

We in Victoria have to congratulate ourselves that, after much effort and anxiety, Pharmacy has obtained not only a name, but a “local habitation.” We have to thank the Government for their assistance and enlightened appreciation of the needs of Pharmacy as a branch of medical education, and also those who, by their foresight, took the necessary steps to obtain site and buildings, now firmly established as a College of Pharmacy, for the purpose of more conveniently and efficiently carrying on the important work of Pharmaceutical Education. The Melbourne University has its Medical School, and is about to spend some thousands of pounds granted by Parliament. Thus, it is to be hoped that our medical faculty are fully alive to the urgent need of keeping the education and training of the physicians and surgeons of Australia abreast of the teaching in the great European schools. The Sydney University, it is gladly recognised, is also making the most earnest and active efforts to be, if possible, ahead of us. The Melbourne University has at last accepted our College of Pharmacy, and thus—

Pharmacy has now a place in the system of medical education in this colony; the teaching of *Materia Medica*, Botany, and Chemistry at the University was found, if not inadequate, at least ill-adapted to the proper education of pharmaceutical chemists. Therefore, after long and careful consideration, it was decided by the council of the Pharmaceutical Society to form a College of Pharmacy, which was done in 1882, under the direction of the Society, for teaching Chemistry, *Materia Medica*, and Botany. This step met with the warm approval and recognition of the Pharmacy Board. A large number of students have gone through the School and passed the various examinations required by law, some of them having given evidence of great intelligence and proficiency in the various branches of knowledge, some receiving the gold medal given by the Society for excellence. The experience gained by the examiners appointed by the Board has enabled them so to improve the methods of examination that much more definite and satisfactory results are now being obtained. The Preliminary Examination, which must be passed before apprenticeship, is conducted by Mr. James Clegy, M.A., and has given entire satisfaction. It is curious to find that the average of failures in this examination is much about the same as in the corresponding examination in England. Judging by a comparison of the state of Pharmacy in the past before the passing of the Pharmacy Act, with the present we have every reason to be satisfied that a great improvement is manifest, and that the public may feel that their interests have been considered. The medical profession may rest assured that the preparation and dispensing of medicines will be in safe hands.

It may be interesting to some of our more youthful members to have a slight historical sketch of the rise and progress of Pharmacy in Victoria. In the early days—now gradually fading into the twilight of the past—before the gold era, when the population was small, there were very few pharmacists, or, to use the ancient term, chemists and druggists. Most of those who were in business had emigrated before the establishment of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, and belonged to the old school. After the discovery of gold, when population and prosperity increased, many young pharmacists

were attracted to the colony, bringing with them the new ideas which they had become imbued with under the spirit which had recently been diffused in England on the question of Pharmaceutical Education. Many had been in contact with men whose names we shall not readily let die, to whom we in our time owe an everlasting debt of gratitude—such men as Jacob Bell, W. Allen, Morson, Savory, Dean, Hanbury, Squire, and many others. We have now with us some who studied in the old laboratory of the Pharmaceutical Society in the earliest years of its existence, before the Imperial Parliament had legislated for the regulation of Pharmacy : men who, naturally loyal to the associations of youth and country, wished to see provided similar means for the better education of their fellows here. In 1857 the Government of the day proposed legislation which it was thought would seriously embarrass, if not restrict unduly, pharmaceutical chemists. A meeting was called at the house of the late Mr. Croad—at the suggestion of Mr. Holdsworth—who then carried on business in the premises now in the possession of Mr. H. Francis.

Mr. Holdsworth called a meeting of the chemists and druggists of Melbourne, which was well attended—Messrs. Ford, Glover, Cooper, Dredwyer, Croad, Plummer, and others. Many of those who were present are no longer with us, but are still remembered. The purpose for which this, the first meeting of chemists and druggists in Australia, was summoned was to consider the formation of a society to watch over their interests. Mr. W. Ford was elected as chairman, and it was resolved that a society should be formed, to be called the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria, which was done, and this has developed into the present Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia. Other meetings took place, at one of which the late Dr. Greeves was present ; he was then in Parliament. Our interview with him led to beneficial results. Crude and unfair legislation was prevented. Out of these circumstances the Pharmaceutical Society arose. Mr. F. Cooper was elected president, Mr. Bosisto vice-president, of the Council. Five survive—Messrs. Bosisto, Johnson, Lewis, Blackett, and Kruse. The first pharmaceutical meeting was held 2nd October, 1857. Mr. Bosisto read an elaborate paper upon Australian plants. On reference to the old journal this paper will be found. In those early days lectures—very good lectures, indeed—were delivered by Mr. Johnson, Mr. Ford, Mr. Gibbons, Mr. Ellery, Dr. Von Müller (now Baron Sir Ferdinand), and others. Baron Von Müller was the first honorary member elected. The Pharmaceutical Society and all pharmacists are under great obligations to the Government botanist for what he has done for them in the past. In 1858 the Society published a journal, under the joint editorship of Messrs. Johnson and Bosisto. It continued to exist for two years, and was discontinued through that “cursed lack of pence” which so often “vexes public men.”

The present journal, which was started in 1878, has been now in existence some years, and has been, it is said, of some service to us. All we ask and require is more support in the way of original contributions from members. Since the passing of the Pharmacy Act a new era has arrived, and during the nine years which have elapsed from the enactment of the Pharmacy Act a great change for the better has been observed. We have now a much superior class of youths engaged in the practice of Pharmacy, and as the standard of education has been raised, and the examinations made more efficient, we have every reason to hope for still further progress, which will be to the advantage of the public, and, it is to be expected, give a solid impetus to the diffusion of scientific knowledge. In consequence of the passing of the Amended Health Act, the necessity for a larger number of analysts has made itself felt ; therefore we would strongly urge upon our students to make themselves as thorough masters as possible of Chemistry. In England a number of public analysts have been drawn from the ranks of Pharmacy. The qualifications for a pharmaceutical chemist have been well set forth by Dr. George Wilson, of Edinburgh, a good authority in treating of the education of pharmaceutical chemists. He laid down the following as essential in the knowledge of a qualified pharmacist :—

1. A thorough familiarity with the appearance and sensible properties, such as colour, odour, taste, and the like, of every important drug or medicine, natural or artificial, whether derived directly or indirectly from the mineral, vegetable, or animal kingdoms.
2. A knowledge—the greater the better—of the chemical nature or composition of all the important drugs or medicines.

3. A general acquaintance with the physiological action and influence on the living body of the chief medicines in use.

Of course this last recommendation may seem less necessary than the others, and is not in any way to be understood as giving any support in the direction of encouraging any deviation from the path of legitimate Pharmacy into the domain of medicine. But no one ought to be considered an accomplished or safe dispenser of medicine without such knowledge, and now much more is properly required. In fact, the future pharmacist will, as education and accurate knowledge extend, be expected to be a man of wide and liberal education and knowledge—the honest and faithful servant of the public, the reliable aid to the physician, and the opponent of all forms of quackery.

Now a word to those who are to be the upholders of this ideal in the next and succeeding generation : I mean the students. Students,—You are now just upon the threshold of your life-work. The close watchfulness of parents can no longer be extended to you. You have been watched and tended by anxious and hopeful parents—parents who have denied themselves many things in order that you might have the advantages to be derived from a sound training and education. You must always live with a vivid sense of this. Tender hearts are beating for you and waiting for the result of your industry and conscientious devotion to your studies ; but the home influence is no longer around you as formerly. Many temptations will assail you, but ever live and work as in “your Great Taskmaster’s eye.” To all temptations, whether to indolence, neglect of study, or to vice of all kinds, like men who realise the importance of your destiny, resolutely say No ! Let it be your everlasting No, and, having chosen your path, walk in it ; your time for “choice is brief, and yet endless.” Now, and *now* only, is your opportunity. How inexpressibly sad will be your feelings in the future, how lacerated will be the hearts of those good and waiting parents of yours, if you should be led away by weakness and folly to failure, or, what would be infinitely more painful, dishonour. Let your watchwords be Duty, Industry, and Love of Truth ! *Nulla dies, sine linea.*

Like a star that maketh not haste,
That taketh not rest,
Each one fulfilling his God-given hest.

My colleagues take a kindly interest in your future and present welfare. Nothing affords us greater pleasure than to find that you profit by your studies ; nothing gives us more pain than having to reject you at the examinations ; but for your benefit, in the interest of pharmaceutical progress, and, above all, in the paramount interest of the public—the sick and suffering—we are bound to see that the diploma which is given has a real value : that it is a guarantee of knowledge gained and practical ability acquired. You have already given us some promise in having passed the Preliminary Examination.

Now you have to grapple with all the power of will you possess—the full force of which is only half employed, I fear, by any of us—with Chemistry, *Materia Medica*, and Botany.

You, perhaps, now, do not know even the Alphabet of these sciences, but be in no way cast down by early difficulties ; you will—as others who have trod the ground before you—find them vanish one by one, until you, in full intellectual strength, find that you have conquered, that you have become the possessor of that power which knowledge only can give, and, I do not hesitate to say, that which far outweighs mere intellectual gain and advantage—resources which will afford you profitable work, solid comfort and enjoyment, the means of doing good, and, above all, an abiding sense of the divine beauty of this wonderful world of ours : how it is governed by unerring and unchanging laws, which, if we are to be happy, must be obeyed. Above all the sciences Chemistry is of most value. A knowledge of Chemistry opens before our wondering gaze untold riches : shows us beauties and utilities unseen before. Our bodies are chemical laboratories, making and unmaking all sorts of chemical compounds of infinite complexity. The vegetable world is the result of chemical changes and processes of wonderful beauty.

Changed through all, and yet in all the same.

Yet, when looking upon the glories of a summer landscape, with lovely flowers around us and under our feet, how faintly does the uneducated mind and eye realise all its greatness ! But to the eye of the chemist how much greater the wonder and beauty, for

he knows that underlying all this, and while gazing at it, endless changes are going on in silent and ceaseless activity ; and, stranger than all, only a very few of the sixty-five elementary bodies of which this world is composed enter into the combinations, decompositions, and re-combinations ! Carbon, Hydrogen, Oxygen, and Nitrogen.

But, descending from the regions of the ideal, let us come to the real. The branch of Chemistry to which you have to apply yourselves is what is called Pharmaceutical Chemistry—*i.e.*, Chemistry as applied to Pharmacy : technical Chemistry. By Pharmacy you have decided to obtain a sphere for honourable and useful occupation ; to render services to your fellows for equivalent services rendered by them. To perform the necessary functions involved in the honest, intelligent, and responsible practice of a pharmacist, no one in the present day can expect to succeed, or be even trusted by the public and the medical profession, who is ignorant of Chemistry and allied sciences. Can we be satisfied to possess less knowledge of science than the artisan ? Professor Huxley has told the working men of England "that if they do not acquire a proper knowledge of science and of modern science, England will perish as surely as Carthage."

The working classes are about to have available a Technical College. Impress upon your minds the significance of this : in a few years, a very few years, you will find that, unless you are scientifically and thoroughly educated, your influence and success will be gone. We cannot lag behind ; we expect you, who will be the future Pharmacists of Australia, to be not only abreast, but in advance of the people with whom you will be brought into hourly and most intimate contact. It is the province of Pharmaceutical Chemistry "to produce by peculiar combinations and decompositions certain bodies which do not occur in Nature, but are prescribed by medical men," thus shedding a healing balm over many of the "ills that flesh is heir to." Without a knowledge of Chemistry you cannot prepare properly any compound of the Pharmacopædia, and certainly would be unable to test their genuineness when manufactured. There is also the wide field for future discovery, and the improvement of pharmaceutical processes. The more manipulative skill you possess, directed by sound scientific knowledge, the greater will be your success and joy ; instead of walking in darkness or uncertain light, you will have your daily path illuminated and made pleasant ; the tedium of business routine will not depress, arduous as the duties often are. This science took its rise, and has been developed, in the laboratories of pharmacists. From the discoveries of pharmaceutical chemists the world has been wonderfully benefited. Bequin discovered calomel ; Hombeberg, boric acid ; Margraff, beetroot sugar. Scheele, of poor parentage, discovered hydrocyanic acid ; made many other discoveries, and died at forty-four. Pelletier discovered quinine ; another pharmacist discovered morphia ; and so on, and so on.

The study of Botany is a most delightful branch of natural science. There is not a worthless weed or insignificant wayside flower but affords us food for investigation, and as we gain familiarity with the various forms and distinctions of plants our pleasure is increased. You will soon learn all about the calyx, petal, stamen, and pistil : about the arrangement of the various parts of the flower in the different orders. Always take with you in your walks a pocket microscope with which to carefully examine every flower that you see. Study well the form of leaf, and flower, and seed. Let it be your rule to gain a clear idea of the meaning of all the more important botanical terms : do not be afraid to ask if you find any difficulty in getting an explanation. Do not think that Botany is to be learned from books alone ; you must work at the living plants. Do not think that it is a useless science ; it is of great practical value to the pharmacist. How often have poisonous leaves and roots been accidentally, or fraudulently, mixed with articles of the *Materia Medica* ; belladonna roots with gentian ; sarsaparilla with the roots of asparagus ; serpentaria with aristolochia tomentosa ; verbasum leaves with digitalis ; saffron with marigold florets. None of these, and numerous others, could be detected by the unscientific pharmacist ignorant of Botany. Botany has all this claim to our attention : that it affords inexhaustible source of pleasure to the mind—"a thing of beauty is a joy for ever"—and in this study you will be brought face to face with Nature, and in drinking in the beauty of her forms you will find as a result mental elevation, and a refining influence which will render all that is coarse and vulgar utterly distasteful. In future far-off years you will look back upon your botanical walks and studies with a sweet remembrance, and many old and faded associations will at times be revived at the sight of some beautiful flower or plant which became familiar to you in the days of your youth.

The sequel of Botany is *Materia Medica*. Without Chemistry and Botany no one can properly become an accomplished pharmacist. The range of *Materia Medica* is so wide and diversified that to be a thorough master of this branch of knowledge would require even more than an acquaintance with Chemistry and Botany. Physics, Zoology, and Physiology would require to be mastered. You must carefully study all the roots, stems, leaves, and seeds of plants, the various crystalline forms of chemical substances, the differing and peculiar characters of gums, resins, and other products of the vegetable and animal kingdom. You must also direct your minds to the geographical sources of substances used in medicine. The day has long past by for the defective knowledge which was formerly prevalent to be again allowed by the State. Pharmacy is a branch of medicine—the handmaid of the physician. We should be a remarkable people if we, while giving the highest possible education to our physicians and surgeons, made no provision for the education of pharmacists. I venture to hope that the Governments of these colonies will, in a wise and enlightened spirit, guard your art from being practised in any form by anyone who shall not have obtained his credentials after a due course of study and examination.

Let each student pay the closest attention, use his eyes, train his hands, observe all the manipulations and experiments of the lecturer; with pencil in hand note down all leading thoughts and principles. The attentive student is the good scholar, passes his examinations with ease, and has every fair prospect of a prosperous career in the future. The diploma which you will receive is a mark of the confidence reposed in you; it is not an intimation that you need study and learn no more. Far from it; however well you may satisfy the examiners, you must not forget that, in order to take your true place and maintain it, you must be ever learning.

In the language of one who was an example of all that was wise, good, and great, John Stuart Mill, I will close my remarks.

"Having once conquered the first difficulties—the only ones of which the irksomeness surpasses the interest: having turned the point beyond which—what was once a task becomes a pleasure. In even the busiest after-life the higher powers of your mind will make progress imperceptibly, by the spontaneous exercise of your thoughts, and by the lessons you will know how to learn from daily experience." "Nor let anyone be discouraged by what may seem, in moments of despondency, the lack of time and opportunity. Those who know how to employ opportunities will often find that they can create them; and what we achieve depends less on the amount of time we possess than on the use we make of our time. You, and your like, are the hope and resource of your country in the coming generation. All great things which that generation is destined to do have to be done by some like you. . . . I do not attempt to instigate you by any prospect of direct rewards, either earthly or heavenly; the less we think about being rewarded in either way the better for us. But there is one reward which will not fail you, and which may be called disinterested, because it is not a consequence, but is inherent in the very fact of deserving it: the deeper and more varied interest you will feel in life, which will give it tenfold its value, and a value which will last to the end. All merely personal objects grow less valuable as we advance in life; this not only endures but increases."

MODERN BOTANY IN ITS RELATION TO PHARMACY.

By D. M'ALPINE, F.C.S., &c.

BOTANY is a recognised course in every scheme of pharmaceutical education, and, therefore, a few remarks on some recent developments of this science may not be inappropriate. Modern Botany is no longer content with the mere study of plant architecture and the recognition of specimens from their structural characteristics, but it seeks to lay bare the inner working of the organism, and the life processes of plants justly claim a large share of attention. These vital processes determine the various structures concerned in carrying them out, and, at the same time, account for many products resulting from that vital activity. Hence it is that modern Botany rests on a physiological basis, and, for the sake of brevity, our remarks will be grouped under the following general heads:—

1. Plant Physiology, or their normal life processes.
2. Plant Histology, or the doctrine of their tissues.

3. Plant Pathology, or the diseases of plants.

4. And reference will finally be made to the use of the Microscope, for, while that instrument is by no means confined to Botany, it is largely used in connection with it.

1. The *Physiology* of plants, with its more accurate determinations and more reliable results in modern times, has enabled us not only to understand many of the hitherto hidden and obscure processes of plant life, but to express our knowledge in terms of physiology rather than in those of morphology or structure.

The organs are no longer regarded mainly as possessing certain characteristics of form and structure, but more essentially as a means for doing certain kinds of work, to which purpose the structure necessarily conforms. The purpose, in fact, explains the particular kind of structure, and, while morphology deals with the organs or apparatus concerned in certain processes, such as nutrition or reproduction, physiology is concerned with the processes themselves.

Thus the stomata, or breathing pores, of a plant put the interior into communication with the outer air at certain points. It is the province of physiology to investigate their use, why they are usually placed on the under side of the leaf, the quantity and quality of the materials passing out and in, and the conditions under which they open and shut by means of hydrostatic pressure. It is the business of morphology, on the other hand, to describe the stomata, to show how their structure permits of their being opened or closed by hydrostatic pressure, and how certain forms could alone conform to such regulations.

A physiological classification of organs brings the whole range of plant life, from the lowest to the highest, under one all-embracing principle, and that is a great gain, as well as a great simplification, to botanical science.

2. Plant *Histology* deals with the tissues, and, when these are viewed in relation to their function and not merely to their form, just as in the case of the organs, then their study is completely transformed from the dead, dry bones of structure to a living and animated power. Each part is then seen in its organic connection with the whole, and along with the greatest subdivision of labour there is perfect harmony of action between the different parts. One part has to protect, another to strengthen as a skeleton, some for nutrition and circulation, some for respiration and exertion, and others for reproduction ; so that, in this way, an organic whole is constituted out of its component parts. Here again the study of the tissues is invested with a living interest, and saved from degenerating into a mere matter of section-cutting and staining, and deciphering of complex patterns, as is too often the case.

3. Plant *Pathology*, or plant disease, possesses an interest not merely for the agriculturist and horticulturist, but for the botanist, who thereby gains an insight into the normal as well as abnormal conditions of plant life. Of late years considerable activity has been displayed in this department, and a fuller knowledge of the causes and the products of disease in plants, and of the repair of injuries, will tend to throw light upon the conditions necessary for a healthy growth. The normal and abnormal conditions of life, like good and bad weather, are but different stages of the same cycle, and the one serves to throw the other into strong relief.

So, whether studying plants in the gross or the minute as to their organs or tissues, or whether in health or disease, it will be observed that the processes at work receive first consideration, and the means whereby these processes are carried on grow out of the former, and are seen to be necessary adjuncts. It is further to be noted that, in seeking for the uses of any special part or product to a plant, we may obtain some clue as to their possible use to us either in medicine or the arts.

4. The use of the *Microscope* in Botany will only be touched upon so far as to show that in Pharmacy it may often render valuable assistance—for instance, in the detection of adulterations, as well as in the accurate determination of specimens. A single example in the writer's own experience may be quoted. A sample of saffron was being examined, which is well known to consist of the dried stigmas of species of crocus, and the rolled-up florets of a composite were detected at once, similar in colour to the real saffron, and difficult of detection by chemistry, but revealing under the microscope, at a glance, the different parts of perfect yet minute florets. The working and proper manipulation of the microscope is, indeed, indispensable to anyone wishing to realise for himself the variety of products stored up in plants which are used for medical purposes.

In conclusion, there is one feature of modern science which must not be lost sight of, and that is the cohesion and connection it is showing to exist between facts apparently the most remote. The science of life, for instance, the more it is studied, and the deeper we penetrate into its secrets, reveals a deep-seated connection with many processes formerly believed to be independent of its agency. Hence it is that the rapid advancement of biological science, while adding much to our knowledge of Nature, is likewise setting old facts before us in quite a new light. It is breaking down many of the barriers which at present separate the different sciences, and is sweeping into the biological net many phenomena otherwise outlying, scattered, and unconnected. Life has not only to do, according to recent research, with the so-called "weathering" of the rocks, and the preparation of the soil for the farmers' operations by "Nature's ploughmen," as Darwin has styled earthworms, but it has even invaded the domain of chemistry, and that in a department of special interest to pharmacists. The conversion of the cell walls of plants into gum by the fermentative action set up by a fungus, and the conversion of urea into ammonic carbonate by a bacterial organism, are cases in point. Chemistry is likely to receive in the future much light upon many of its processes from the investigation of ferments—organic as well as inorganic—and the nitrification of the soil by the agency of bacteria is another striking example of how the chemical force is set in action by the presence of life. The science of life, in fact, is a sort of central pivot around which every other department of Nature revolves, and the modern study of Botany as a branch of Biology has exhibited the unity of life amid diversity of outward manifestation in a striking light.

INFUSIONS.

BY JAMES BRINSMEAD.

How to make an infusion appears at first sight such an excessively easy matter that its preparation is in many pharmacies confided to beginners, who, in addition, are often left without a hint as to how it should be done.

We who have resided a few years in Australia know pretty well the state of mind the "Kitchen Fairy" is in by the quality of the cup of tea she deigns to provide for us. Be the herb ever so delicately flavoured, she knows well how to spoil it, and will often do so on small provocation. It is the same with many apprentices, too often, also, with many who should know better. The hot water is simply thrown on the herb or bark, and the resulting infusion, when cold, strained.

An infusion, when prepared with proper care, is doubtless one of the best forms of administering certain drugs, and I purpose therefore, in a few words, to show how it can be done at a minimum of expense, trouble, and time, compatible with good and never varying results.

Owing to the carelessness of preparation there is often a noticeable difference in the appearance of mixtures prepared on different dates or in different pharmacies from the same prescription, so much so that the patient sometimes becomes dissatisfied and naturally suspects something wrong.

In establishments doing a good dispensing trade it is very convenient to prepare the more commonly used infusions early in the day, but in many pharmacies to do so would be both waste of time and material. Whatever may be the individual opinion as to the employment of the concentrated preparations, there are drugs which, if exhibited in that form, would be practically useless, and, as a consequence, the object of the doctor in prescribing them would be defeated. Take, for instance, Buehu, and compare the aroma of its infusion, carefully manipulated, with the unsightly liquid produced by diluting the concentrated infusion with water!

The plan I have adopted, and found to answer admirably, is to take an ordinary pint pot with lip (for small quantities), a funnel, and a filtering paper; fold the paper *twice* only, place it within the funnel in the usual manner, and both into the jug to be used as the recipient for the infusion. After having carefully washed the filter with boiling water from a little kettle, gently pack the drug or drugs to be operated upon, and then very slowly pour the boiling water over them—in fact, make the infusion by displacement. In this manner nearly all the infusions of the P.B. (except, of course, Quassia and Calunha) can be prepared in a few minutes, provided the different leaves, barks, etc., needed be kept ready bruised for use. No straining being required, the infusion can be poured into the bottle as soon as sufficiently cool.

When, as it sometimes happens, a prescription is presented on which appears Inf. Kramerie, and at the same time you are informed that "I must be at the station in fifteen minutes," what to do well and quickly becomes a difficult question if some better method than that laid down in the P.B. cannot be found. The hints given by Squire in his Companion upon the Conservation of Infusions are of real practical value, but his infusion pot, if every size is bought, is expensive, frequently broken, and troublesome to keep clean.

The foregoing plan can also be utilised for the preparation of black coffee, "superior to that in common use," which, if made strong, will keep nearly a week in the hottest weather.

Patients in this exciting climate are far less patient than in moist England, and don't like to wait an hour or two for a mixture, and this fact, Mr. Editor, must be my apology for what I might almost term a plea for good infusions quickly prepared.

SYNOPSIS OF THE PHARMACY ACTS OF THE AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES.

In view of the Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference which it is proposed to hold in Sydney in September next, it may be interesting to compare the legislation on pharmacy which at the present time exists in the various colonies.

New Zealand, Queensland, and Victoria are the only colonies that have Pharmacy Acts pure and simple. In New South Wales and Tasmania Acts regulating the sale of poisons are in operation, but they do not in any way deal with pharmaceutical education.

Part I. of the Acts of Victoria, New Zealand, and Queensland are nearly transcripts of each other, and the title pharmaceutical chemist being in each instance adopted.

The first boards were all nominated by the Governor-in-Council, and in each instance are composed of seven members. The term of office in New Zealand and Queensland is three years, but in Victoria this has been found not to work well, and an amendment was made about two years ago which provides that two members retire every year. The members who retire first are those who, at the election of the board, received the fewest number of votes.

Part II., which, in the first clauses, deals with the issue of the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists, is almost identical, and the same scale of fees is also adopted in all the colonies. It is not until we come to the section providing for disqualification that any important amendment is made. In the Victorian and New Zealand Acts this clause states—"That if any registered pharmaceutical chemist be convicted of any offence *under this Act* which, in the opinion of the board, renders him unfit to be on the Pharmaceutical Register, the board may, subject to the approval of the Governor-in-Council, order the name of such person to be erased." Had, however, the framers of the Victorian Act the experience they now have, this clause would, no doubt, have been amended to that adopted by Queensland, where the words "*under this Act*" are omitted from the section. Thus, under the Victorian Act a person may be convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to imprisonment, but unless such offence comes under Subdivisions 1 to 4 of Section 25, the board are unable to prosecute for an offence against the Pharmacy Act, and, consequently, cannot erase the name.

The educational portions of the Acts are in Part III., and all differ most materially. The Victorian Act requires a preliminary examination before apprenticeship, which must then be for four years. In New Zealand and Queensland no preliminary examination exists; the former requires no apprenticeship, and the latter three years. It is in the assimilation of Part III. that great difficulty is likely to arise, the preliminary examination *before apprenticeship* being the *bête noir*. The Victorian Act also provides that the apprentice must attend, at some recognised school or college, one course of lectures, and pass examinations in *materia medica*, botany, and practical chemistry before he can present himself for the final or practical pharmacy examination. The wording of this section in the New Zealand and Queensland Acts are identical, and state that "The board shall examine all persons who shall present themselves for examination as to their knowledge of the Latin language, botany and *materia medica*, pharmaceutical and general chemistry." Practical pharmacy is also specified by Queensland, but not by New Zealand.

The clauses referring to the registration of persons who were in business or assistants in the several colonies before the passing of the Acts, and the recognition of the certificates from the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, and other schools or colleges recognised by resolution of the Board, are pretty much the same in each Act.

The penal clauses of the Act differ somewhat. In Victoria the fine for a breach of Section 25 of the Act is not to exceed £10 and imprisonment for six months; in New Zealand, twelve months' imprisonment and a fine of £20, and in Queensland, £20 and six months.

Victoria appears to be the only colony where complete regulations have been framed. These deal with the election of the members and the proceedings of the board; the list of the registrar, treasurer, and auditors; the examiners and examinations, and the colleges and schools of pharmacy recognised by the board.

The Sale and Use of Poisons Act is a separate enactment in Victoria, and is administered by the Pharmacy Board. It differs from the Act in operation in New South Wales, inasmuch as in Victoria no certificate can be granted to any person to deal in poisons unless he is distant at least four miles from any city, town, or borough in which a registered pharmaceutical chemist has an open shop.

Provision is also made in the Victorian Act for the safe custody of poisons in any manner the board may direct, and the sale by regulation is also restricted to the person licensed to sell, who is not permitted to authorise or allowed to delegate or entrust any duty, task, or obligation imposed by the Poisons Act, in connection with the custody or sale of poison to any other person under any pretence whatever.

Clause 2 of the Victorian Act gives to the Pharmacy Board power to declare any article a poison, and the 13th Section gives great scope in the prosecution of sales by unqualified persons. The penal clauses are the same in New South Wales and Victoria, and limit the fine to £20 for illegally selling, and £10 for non-compliance with the clauses relating to the entry, labelling, and colouring.

H. S.

Meetings.

PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA.

THE monthly meeting of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria was held at the College of Pharmacy on Wednesday, the 10th June.

Present—Messrs. Blackett, Francis, Tompsitt, Bowen, Holdsworth, and Owen.

The president (Mr. C. R. Blackett) in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

An apology was received from Mr. Brind.

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION.

The following applicants were registered as Pharmaceutical Chemists:—

Edwin John Nicholson, Police Hospital, passed Major Examination, Victoria.

John Henry Niemann, Sale, passed Major Examination, Victoria.

Horace Watson, St. Kilda, passed Major Examination, Victoria.

Robert Henry Cullen, St. Kilda, Certificate, Pharm. Soc., Great Britain, Modified Examination.

Stephen John Taylor, Melbourne, Certificate, Pharm. Soc., Great Britain, Minor Examination.

C. J. M. Skoglund, Eye and Ear Hospital, passed Major Examination, Victoria.

APPRENTICES' INDENTURES REGISTERED.

Samuel Buchholz, apprenticed to Mr. William Bowen, Collins-street, Melbourne.

CERTIFICATES UNDER SALE AND USE OF POISONS ACT.

The following new certificates were granted:—

Charles Brazier, Drysdale.

J. C. Hodgson, Pakenham.

William White, Romsey.

J. F. Neal, Romsey.

ERASURE OF NAMES FROM THE PHARMACEUTICAL REGISTER OF VICTORIA.

The names of the following deceased persons were erased from the Register:—

Richard H. Jenkyns.

Geo. S. Allingham.

Henry S. Fosse.

William Tweeddale.

REPORT OF EXAMINERS.

The following report was received and adopted:—

Preliminary Examination.—Seven candidates attended; three passed.

Examination for the Certificate of the College of Pharmacy.—Six attended; five passed.

Practical Pharmacy Examination.—Six attended, and four passed.

Modified Examination.—The only candidate who presented himself passed.

IN RE W. F. G. NETTLETON.

A mandamus having been issued by the Supreme Court calling on the board to restore Nettleton's name to the Pharmaceutical Register of Victoria, it was resolved that his name be so restored under the direction and in compliance with the order of the Court.

The following contributions were received and ordered to be suitably acknowledged:—*The Pharmaceutical Register of New South Wales; The Pharmaceutical Register of Queensland; The Calendar of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland; The Calendar of the Adelaide University; The Pharmaceutical Act of Tasmania.*

PROSECUTIONS.

The Registrar reported the prosecution of W. F. Reynolds for a breach of the 3rd section of the Sale and Use of Poisons Act, the defendant being fined £10 and £6 6s. costs. A number of other cases for prosecution were submitted to the board and dealt with.

Correspondence and financial business brought the meeting to a close.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

The monthly meeting of the council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia was held at the College of Pharmacy, Swanston-street, on Friday, the 5th June.

Present—Messrs. Bowen, Brinsmead, Huntsman, Harrison, Hooper, Kingsland, Tompsitt, Baker, Lacey, Gamble, and Shillinglaw.

The president (Mr. Wm. Bowen) in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

The following persons, having complied with the necessary forms of application for membership, were balloted for and duly elected:—

Alexander B. Heron, Townsville, Queensland.
D. C. T. Watkins, 10 Bourke-street, Melbourne.
Jason Couve, Dandenong.
R. Bloomfield Rees, Eaglehawk.

Several applications were postponed, the declarations which must accompany each application not being made before a magistrate.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-PRESIDENT AND MEMBER OF COUNCIL.

A ballot for the office of vice-president for the ensuing year resulted in the election of Mr. James Brinsmead; and Mr. C. R. Blackett was unanimously elected a member of the council, *vice* Mr. A. T. Best, resigned.

THE INTERCOLONIAL PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

The hon. secretary read the communication from the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales inviting the attendance of two members of the council at the Conference to be held in Sydney on the 16th and 17th September next.

Mr. Bowen expressed his approval at the prospect of the Conference at last being held, and invited the members of the council to discuss the matter.

Mr. Tompsitt said he thought the importance of the Conference could not be overrated. He trusted to see the meeting a thoroughly representative one. He would like to see the subjects to be dealt with at the Conference formulated by each colony and fully discussed before being submitted. This would save a deal of time at the meeting, and would also enable a programme to be published.

Mr. Brinsmead desired to know if any platform had been laid down by the society inviting the Conference, and whether the subjects to be discussed would be narrowed down to business issues.

Messrs. Huntsman, Baker, and Kingsland, while giving their hearty support to the proposition, would like each colony to prepare its own suggestions, which could then be published in the Journal.

Mr. Harrison considered that it would be of great importance that the colonies where no pharmaceutical organisation existed should be represented. It would strengthen their hands on their return from the Conference to ask that they should be placed on the same footing as the other colonies where pharmaceutical enactments existed.

After some further discussion it was resolved that a reply be forwarded to the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales, stating that the council of this society will have great pleasure in sending delegates to the proposed Intercolonial Conference to be held at Sydney, provided that all the colonies, including New Zealand, South Australia, and Tasmania, are represented, and that the principal matter to be submitted by Victoria for the consideration of the Conference will be the desirability of uniformity in pharmaceutical education for all the colonies.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A letter was read from Mr. Huntsman withdrawing his resignation as a member of the council. A communication was also read from Mr. Sidney Plowman, London, conveying to the council his full appreciation of the distinguished honour conferred upon him in electing him an honorary member of the society.

A vote of thanks to Mr. A. C. Lewis and the match committee of the recent cricket match for their donation to the Benevolent Fund was carried unanimously.

Financial and general business brought the meeting to a close.

DETECTION OF COPPER AND LEAD IN WINE. —Hager recommends mixing the suspected wine with $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{3}$ volume of clear liquor sole when the mixture should remain clear even if boiled; a coloured turbidity would indicate the probable presence of copper. Put 6 cc. of the clear mixture in a test-tube and introduce a piece of tin foil, which should be entirely covered by the liquid; warm in a water-bath for about $\frac{1}{2}$ or 1 hour. If the wine be free from lead and copper, the tin foil will remain glossy; slight traces of these metals cause the tin foil to lose its lustre, and to become grayish; in the presence of more than traces of these metals the tin foil will be dark gray to dark grayish black (lead); dark steel coloured, brown or brownish black (copper). Boiling will accelerate the action. Presence of zinc or arsenic will not interfere with the above reaction.—*Ph. Centralhalle*, No. 8, 1885.

THE SCHOOL OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES, LIBRARY, AND MUSEUM OF BALLARAT.

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED A SCHOOL OF PHARMACY.

THIS Institution continues to make a steady progress, both as regards the field embraced by its courses of instruction and the numbers attending the classes. Instruction is now provided in the following subjects, the number of students in regular attendance being :—Chemistry, Practical (with lectures), 53 ; Metallurgy, 19 ; Natural Philosophy, 21 ; Geology, 9 ; Mineralogy, 9 ; Mining Surveying, 8 ; Mathematics, 16 : Mechanical Engineering, Drawing, 43 ; Electricity and Magnetism (Practical and Theoretical), 8 ; Telegraphy, 26 ; Pharmacy and Physiology, 16 ; Botany, 24 ; Astronomy, 13 ; Classes for Senior State School Pupils in Chemistry, Applied Chemistry (Household, Health, Industrial, Agricultural), Electricity and Magnetism, and Astronomy, 150. Classes are also forming in Latin, Greek, German, French and French Conversation, and Italian.

Eleven lecturers, exclusive of assistants, are engaged in instruction.

The class rolls of State School teachers from Ballarat and surrounding districts attending classes in Chemistry, Natural Philosophy, Geology, Mineralogy, Physiology, and Botany give a total of 81.

A *fire class*, numbering 8, meets once a week for practice. The Field Club and Science Society, numbering about 50 regular members (free to all students), meets once a month for the reading of papers, exhibition of specimens, &c., and makes occasional field excursions.

The Ironworkers' Association holds weekly meetings for papers and discussions, and occasional lectures on scientific subjects.

The first of a winter's course of public lectures was delivered on 1st May by the Rev. Canon Fergie (President of the Wigan Mining School). The Bishop of Melbourne and others have consented to join in the course.

A thermometer shed has been erected, and instruments recently obtained from England by the Government Astronomer (R. L. J. Ellery, Esq.) have been placed in position. Regular observations to commence at the beginning of the month. At the instance of the School Authorities three acres of ground have been reserved by Government for the establishment of an Observatory, with observer's or caretaker's quarters. An additional 12½-inch Newtonian reflector is being added to the instruments already in possession of the School.

A School of Design will shortly be established in the Institution. This will render the industrial portion of the instruction more complete. A set of 44 models, similar to those in use in the Sydney School of Arts, have been presented to this School, for the use of the Art classes, by the N.S.W. Board of Technical Education, through the Vice-President, James Oddie, Esq.

It has been proposed that the Agricultural College for the South-western District be established in connection with the School. As much of the requisite instruction is already being given in the School, the College might very soon be in full work in the centre of an important agricultural district.

The Museum collections, of which a printed catalogue has been issued, are increasing rapidly, and have long outgrown the space at disposal. With a view to securing increased accommodation, the building formerly occupied by the Wesleyan body, together with the ground abutting on the School reserve, has been purchased, and is being converted into a museum and lecture hall. Very rapid progress has been made in the collection of specimens of the Australian fauna, and the Vice-President has just secured for the School a collection of 400 Australian birds (male and female), classified and arranged by a competent naturalist. These will include some of the new birds of paradise. The Machinery Committee has recommended the purchase of lathes and machinery for workshop instruction and for ore treatment, for the joint benefit of the student and the mining public.

The Library is kept regularly supplied by the publishers with periodical issues of scientific works and magazines, Colonial, European, and American. The School has been placed on the free list of many of the principal English and foreign scientific publications. These are of very great importance in keeping the students and the general public (who have free access to the library for reference) abreast of scientific progress.

The gauge-testing apparatus (for pressure and vacuum gauges) are in constant requisition. As a guarantee of the safety of the public it would be well if all gauges were regularly tested in this way, and each gauge verified and provided with a table of corrections.

In the School of Pharmacy a complete course of instruction is given. Students may attend any one class or compound for a three years' course, embracing all the subjects of Pharmacy examinations.

The classes have been in occupation of the large new chemical laboratory since the beginning of the year. It is already fitted up to accommodate 32 first and second year students and 16 advanced students. The old laboratory contains places for 27 chemical students and 8 places for blowpipe students.

Special lectures for Pharmacy students are given on Tuesdays and Fridays, from 3 to 4, on Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Physics. On Tuesday evenings the Materia Medica and Practical Pharmacy Class is held. The class-room is provided with a most complete set of Materia Medica samples and medical plants, which the students are exercised in describing and distinguishing. They are also assisted by charts prepared by the lecturer, constituting a complete digest of the Pharmacopæia. In the Botany Class the students go through a full course of instruction in general botany and medical botany, illustrated by specimens from the Medical Garden of the School, and varied by excursions to the Botanical Gardens, various private gardens in the neighbourhood or into the bush. As the Railway Commissioners have made such liberal concessions to students of the School as to reduce the fares from stations within 60 miles of Ballarat to a nominal amount, apprentices and assistants have now full opportunity of availing themselves of the School's instruction. During last year 11 certificates of competency were issued in Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Materia Medica, and Botany; and eight students have passed the examinations held during this year.

Examinations in all subjects are held half-yearly—for the stage certificates by the examining board of the School, and for certificates of competency by outside examiners.

Several students are availing themselves of the advantages offered by the establishment of *student assistantships*. These students, from whom a premium is required, are indentured for a three years' course, under the direction of the professors, for the professions of analyst, metallurgist, geologist and mining surveyor, or electrician, and, when successful, receive the diploma of Associate of the School.

State School teachers are instructed free in the subjects already mentioned, their classes meeting chiefly on Saturday.

The Free Lecture Classes for State School pupils are now constituted into a well organised system. From 100 to 120 are taught in a junior lecture class. Those of this class who pass satisfactorily at the half-yearly examinations are drafted into a senior class, and those of the senior class who acquit themselves sufficiently well are awarded free instruction scholarships, entitling them to attend the regular School classes *free*. If these scholars take honours at the first stage examination, in the subject chosen, their scholarship is renewed for another year, and so they may arrive from stage to stage at certificates of competency entirely free. This system of continued selection has been found to work admirably.

An important class, for the training of mining managers in the art of surveying mines and drawing mine plans, has been in operation for some months, and is doing excellent work, under the direction of one of the professors.

The School has also undertaken, through one of its professors, the position of public analyst to a number of boroughs and shires, and to the city and town of Ballarat.

It may be fairly gathered from the foregoing notes that the energetic Councillors of the School are making a brave effort in the cause of scientific education, and the fact that last year the public subscriptions amounted to over £400 is evidence that it has a fair share of public favour.

BOTTLE GLUE. A good bottle glue, insoluble in water, and particularly suitable for sealing bottles containing volatile liquids, such as chloroform, ether, alcohol, etc., may be prepared by soaking glue or gelatin in water, dissolving it in glycerin, then adding tannin (about 2 oz. for every pound of glue), and heating the mixture on a water bath until perfectly homogeneous, and as free from excess of water as possible. It may be coloured if desired. When wanted for use, it is melted and applied to the mouth of the bottles.

THE AUSTRALASIAN

Journal of Pharmacy.*To be Published on the 15th of each Month.***OFFICE:** COLLEGE OF PHARMACY, SWANSTON STREET, MELBOURNE.**LONDON AGENTS:** MESSRS. GORDON AND GOTCH, ST. BRIDE STREET, LUDGATE CIRCUS.**AMERICAN AGENTS:** MESSRS. S. M. PETTENGILL AND CO., 37 PARK ROW NEW YORK.

THIS Journal, which is the only organ of Pharmacy in the Australasian Colonies, is devoted to the advancement of Pharmaceutical knowledge, and to the advocacy of a more thorough education and practical training for all persons engaged in preparing and dispensing medicines, drugs, and chemicals. It is issued gratis to the members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia in

VICTORIA.	SOUTH AUSTRALIA,
NEW SOUTH WALES,	TASMANIA,
NEW ZEALAND,	WESTERN AUSTRALIA,
QUEENSLAND,	Fiji,

And to non-members at 10s. 6d. per annum, payable in advance.

Advertisements, remittances, and all business communications to be addressed to THE HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, SWANSTON STREET, MELBOURNE.

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COMMUNICATIONS for the EDITORIAL department of this journal must be addressed to THE EDITOR, SWANSTON STREET, MELBOURNE.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Month.

MR. A. T. BEST has resigned his seat at the council of the Pharmaceutical Society, and also the position of returning officer under the Pharmacy Act, which he has held for the past five years.

THE first term of the 1885 session at the College of Pharmacy, for medical and pharmaceutical students, ended on the 6th inst. The lectures will recommence on the 29th of June for pharmaceutical students, and on the 1st July for medical students.

At the meeting of the council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia, held on 5th inst., Mr. James Brinsmead was unanimously elected vice-president for the ensuing year, and Mr. C. R. Blackett was also unanimously elected a member of the council, *vice* Mr. A. T. Best, resigned.

THE appeal case in the Supreme Court, Shillinglaw v. Ah Hen, came to an abrupt termination on a point of law raised by the defendant's counsel—that the attorney for the applicant had neglected to transmit, within fourteen days, to the Supreme Court the case stated by the justices who adjudicated.

THE resignation of Mr. Thos. Huntsman as vice-president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia was accepted with regret at the last meeting of the council. Mr. Huntsman states as his reason for resigning that private business occupies so much of his time that he is unable to undertake the duties.

THE quarterly meeting and supper of the Pharmaceutical Society was held on the 10th June; the attendance was not as numerous as was expected. The supper, which took place at the Earl of Zetland Hotel, passed off in a satisfactory manner, some of those present contributing greatly to the enjoyment of the evening by their vocal and instrumental talent.

THE Government of New South Wales have nominated Mr. Charles Moore, director of the Botanic Gardens at Sydney, their representative on the board appointed to enquire into the desirability of re-planting the Geelong vineyards. The board appointed by the Executive Council will consist of Messrs. J. Bosisto, J. Harris, L. L. Smith, J. Davies, J.P., Moonee Ponds, C. Craik, Thomas Hardy, South Australia, and Charles Moore, New South Wales.

THE dinner given by the council of the Pharmaceutical Society to Mr. Thomas Huntsman, the late president, passed off in a very agreeable manner. Mr. William Bowen presided, and proposed the only toast of the evening—Mr. Huntsman's health—in a short and happy speech. In responding to the toast, Mr. Huntsman expressed his high appreciation of the kindly sentiments expressed. The dinner, an excellent one, was well served at the *Maison Dorée*.

THE introductory lecture of a winter course of evening lessons on botany was delivered at the College of Pharmacy by Mr. D. McAlpine, F.C.S., lecturer on botany and biology at Ormond College. The chair was occupied by Dr. Doctson, M.L.C., and there was an excellent attendance. The introductory lecture was on the subject of "The Principle of Division of Labour in Plants." Mr. J. Bosisto, M.L.A., moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer, and promised to give two prizes at the end of the present course. The motion was seconded by the Rev. D. Fraser, and carried with acclamation, and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

A WARDER of the Albury Gaol, named Davis, attempted suicide on the 4th June by taking a bottle of chlorodyne. Dr. Andrews, the Government medical officer, was immediately in attendance, and gave an emetic, with the effect of saving the man's life. Davis had been drinking heavily lately, and was under suspension. If he be well enough he will be brought up at the Police Court to answer the charge of attempted suicide.

A STRANGE case of poisoning, resulting in the death of a child fifteen months old, occurred on the 28th May. Clark's chemist's shop, Queen-street, Brisbane, was recently burnt down, and it appears that a little boy picked up a bottle of opium pills from amongst the *debris*, took the bottle home, and gave it to his little sister to play with. She managed to get the pills out of the bottle and swallowed several of them. Medical aid was promptly called in, but it was unavailing, and the child died in a few hours.

THE following is a list of subjects on which Mr. Fred. Wright will lecture to pharmaceutical students at the Technical College, Sydney, during the month:—1. Vegetable Acids. 2. Vegetable Alkaloids. 3. The Cinehona Tree, and its products. 4. The Manufacture and Uses of Opium. 5. Animal Substances used in Medicine. 6. Alkali Elements and their Salts. 7. Mercury, and its preparations. 8. Iron, and its preparations. 9. Pharmaceutical Processes. 10. Disinfectants and Antiseptics.

WE desire to draw special attention to the case against W. T. Reynolds, for illegally selling poison, heard at the Prahran Police Court on the 3rd inst. The case is one of the worst that has ever come before the courts, the defendant having in some instances given a guarantee that the article sold by him, and called Fuller's Vermin Destroyer, was not poisonous, whereas it was found on examination to contain from 25 to 50 per cent. of uncoloured arsenic. The defendant did not appear to the summons, and a warrant has since been issued against him.

THE Chief Secretary recently paid a visit of inspection to the College of Pharmacy. The presidents of the Pharmacy Board and Pharmaceutical Society were present to meet Mr. Berry and show him over the building. The career of a pharmaceutical student, from the preliminary examination to the completion of his studies, were explained to Mr. Berry, and he expressed himself well pleased with the general efficiency of the training. The visit was made in connection with an application to the Government for a grant of £1000 a year in aid of the funds of the College, and Mr. Berry promised that the sum asked for should be placed on the estimates for next year.

New South Wales.

(From a Sydney Correspondent.)

THE pharmacists of New South Wales will, I think, be delighted to hear of your new venture, as the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy* will undoubtedly supply a long-felt want amongst the fraternity in all the colonies. Hitherto the separate colonies have been very far apart indeed, and a journal devoted to our interests generally must, I think, be a success.

The Pharmaceutical Society is very busy just now making preparations for the final examination, under the old regulations, which takes place this month. The new regulations, which compel students to pass examinations up to the standard of the London curriculum, will then come into force.

Mr. Edwin Quayle, a gentleman lately out from England, has been engaged by the Society to give a course of nine lectures in Chemistry, Pharmacy, and Materia Medica, and they are now in treaty for a hall suitable to hold the lectures in.

Mr. Fred. Wright, the lecturer in Chemistry and Pharmacy at the School of Arts, will give a course of ten public lectures in the great hall of the school to medical, pharmaceutical, and veterinary students. Mr. Wright, who lectures to the students preparing themselves for the forthcoming examination, has at present about thirty under his charge.

The Board of Technical Education are about fitting up a laboratory for pharmaceutical students at the Technical Institute, Sussex-street. It will be under Mr. Wright's direction, and will have accommodation for between twenty and thirty students.

Rather an interesting ceremony to those connected with the business took place on Friday afternoon, 29th May, in O'Connell-street—Mr. F. W. Elliott, the senior partner of the firm of Elliott Brothers, wholesale druggists, laying the last stone of their new stores. After the ceremony, Mr. Louis Phillips proposed the health and prosperity of the firm in a few well chosen words, the toast being honoured very enthusiastically. Mr. Evan Prosser, of Prosser and Co., wholesale druggists, also congratulated the firm upon their success. Mr. Elliott then briefly responded, and the proceedings terminated with the toasts of the Architects, the Contractors, and the Press.

The junior pharmacists' ball, held on Thursday evening, the 28th May, was a great success, both socially and financially, and it speaks well for the efforts of the committee that their first should have been so thoroughly enjoyable.

Two or three old Victorians have lately been paying Sydney a visit. Mr. Thos. Longstaff, of Ballarat, was here with the Ballarat bowlers. Mr. Fred. Cherry, who will be well remembered by many in Victoria, was here last week. Another old Ballarat man, Mr. Wayne, came down to Sydney from Newcastle, after a spell of five years at home.

Mr. James Henry, of George-street, has just opened a branch business at Rocky Point, ogarah.

Mr. Jackson, who was for many years with Mr. Sloper, has purchased from Messrs. A. J. Watt, on and Co. the business in William-street.

Mr. Thomas Williams has retired from the firm of Messrs. Melhuish and Co.. The business will be carried on, as heretofore, by Mr. Melhuish.

Mr. John Hamilton has just purchased, at Summer Hill, a beautiful mansion and grounds, where he intends shortly to reside.

Mr. R. J. Bellemey, of New Town, has recently gone in for municipal honours, and is indefatigable in exposing grievances and suggesting improvements for this suburb.

MESSRS. ELLIOTT BROTHERS' NEW WAREHOUSE IN SYDNEY.

THE new warehouse which has been in course of construction for some considerable time past or Messrs. Elliott Brothers, wholesale chemists and druggists, Sydney, is now almost completed, nasmuch as the last stone was laid on the 29th May. The building covers a large area between O'Connell and Bligh-streets, and has an extensive frontage to each thoroughfare. The contract for the work was let in April, 1884, at a cost of something like £28,000, and has been carried out in a satisfactory manner. The structure possesses every convenience as to floor space and room or storage of goods, &c. The arrangements throughout for the purposes for which the premises were erected are of the most complete kind. The accommodation to both streets is as follows:—The portion facing Bligh-street has six floors, including the basement. The upper floor will be the laboratory, and the floor is fireproof, being formed of concrete. There is an approach from his floor to the roof, where there is a large plat, forming a yard for the purpose of drying lint, &c. Each floor is very lofty and well lighted, and has been designed to carry an immense weight. The basements have been well studied, and are perfectly drained, and floored with concrete and covered with asphaltum. This has been done in order to protect the goods from any possibility of dampness. The goods will be despatched from and received into the different floors by means of hydraulic lifts with the latest improvements. The height from the floor of the basement to the apex of the roof is 82 feet. The total area of floor space is 16,168 feet. Passing from either of the Bligh-street floors through a spacious covered-way, which will also be used for the storage of goods, you enter the larger block facing O'Connell-street. This has seven floors, including basement, and possessing a total area of floor space of 46,492 feet, and a total height of, from floor of basement to apex of roof, 101 feet, each floor being well lighted and ventilated, there being a spacious well running through each floor, and lighted by a large lantern. The great depth and height of the floors make them very imposing. The front portion of the ground floor will be used as the private offices of the firm and also for serving customers. This part will be beautifully tiled and surrounded with handsome office fittings. There will be a large lobby for customers, which will be a very attractive feature. The clerical department will be reached by ascending from this part of the ground floor by a magnificent staircase. The department will be enclosed with handsome office fittings. The goods will be delivered and received by the same means as in the Bligh-street stores, viz., by hydraulic lifts. The passenger lift will be handsomely fitted up, and will be placed in the south-west corner. The basement floor of this block is very spacious, well lighted, and the floor is to be treated in the same manner as the one above mentioned. There will be a large subway from this basement for the convenience of an engine to work the hydraulic lift. A spacious and well built strong-room is situated in the basement. The fine areas, provisions for light and ventilation, have been well thought out. There is a fine view when looking up from the court—which is very roomy—of the great height of the buildings. The approach to and from the courtyard has been well arranged, as the drays can enter Bligh-street and pass out by O'Connell-street, thereby saving much inconvenience and crush. The internal arrangements and accommodation are perfect, and will be convenient for the purposes of the business which is to be carried on. The exteriors have in no way been sacrificed. The bold and imposing front of the Bligh-street elevation, though not so high as that in O'Connell-street, has been well treated in point of design. The front has been well broken and divided into five bays, with massive and well designed pilasters, moulded caps, and bases. The ground floor pilasters are carried to first string, and are rusticated; the next to two floors. The pilasters are continued through, thereby breaking strings and dividing the floors. The three central bays are lighted by large segmental and square-headed windows. They are divided into coupled windows, one large arch enclosing same. The whole of the front is surmounted by a bold and well designed entablature and plain pediment marking the central position. The O'Connell-street elevation will have a handsome front.

JUNIOR PHARMACISTS' BALL.

THE committee of the New South Wales Chemists' Assistants' Association have every reason to congratulate themselves on the success of their first ball, which was held on Thursday evening, the 28th May, at Mr. Need's rooms, Liverpool-street, Hyde Park. A better place in which to hold it could not well have been chosen, as the beautiful ball-room, the floor of which was in perfect condition, the romantic conservatory, with its lovely and delicate ferns, and the elegant drawing-rooms and comfortable dressing and supper rooms, rival anything of the sort in the colonies. Mr. Need's excellent band was all that could be desired. Dancing commenced punctually at

9 o'clock, and one could scarcely wish to see a prettier sight than the perfect harmony of the colours of the ladies' dresses and the graceful movement of the dancers. The numerous handsome and costly dresses bore ample testimony to the desire on the part of the lady friends of our young pharmacists to make their first ball, as far as lay in their power, a perfect success. Where everyone looked so extremely well it would be invidious to mention any in particular, and, moreover, I doubt my capabilities to do them justice, and thus incur the anger of so many of my fair friends. The ball was thoroughly representative, I am glad to say, for, besides some twenty or so of the assistants who were present, a number of the employers showed their appreciation of their *employés'* efforts by being present also, in many cases bringing their wives with them. Amongst them I noticed Messrs. Sadlier (William-street), Kebblewhite, Parker and Jackson (Balmain), Melhuish (William-street), Donald (Regent street), Timmins (Glebe), and others. The arrangements were in every way complete, and the efforts of the officers—viz., Messrs. Towl, Watt, Israel, and Parke—were most ably seconded by the committee—Messrs. Whean, McGuffin, Seales, Munkert, and Loney. Besides the retail, both the medical and wholesale were represented. The ball went off with decided éclat, and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. The programme, consisting of twenty-one dances and three extras, was completed by about half-past three, the majority of the company remaining to the last. There is no doubt that, should this be an annual affair, it will be a great factor in producing that *esprit de corps* which the Pharmaceutical Society is endeavouring to bring about. The Compagnon Catering Company of Pitt-street catered, and gave the greatest satisfaction.

INTERCOLONIAL PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

The following circular has been received from the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales in reference to the proposed Conference:—

“PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY'S OFFICE,

142 Phillip-street, Sydney.

“DEAR SIRS.—It affords me pleasure to inform you that at a special meeting of the council of the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales, held for the purpose of considering the advisableness of holding an Intercolonial Pharmaceutical Conference, it was decided that a Conference should be held in Sydney on the 16th and 17th September next.

“I have therefore to state that the council hopes to have the pleasure of receiving from each Pharmaceutical Society in Australasia at least two members, who may be selected and enabled to attend the said Conference at the date named.

“The council would desire to be informed, at an early date, the subjects that your council might wish discussed at the Conference, and, in conclusion, trusts that this meeting may be the means of advancing pharmacy, promoting a friendly interchange of opinions, and increasing the facilities for the cultivation of pharmaceutical science throughout the Australasian colonies.

“I am, dear sirs,

“Very sincerely yours,

“W. T. PINHEY, Secretary.

“To the President and Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia.

“12th May, 1885.”

Legal and Magisterial.

PROSECUTIONS UNDER “THE SALE AND USE OF POISONS ACT.”

At the Prahran Police Court, on the 3rd June, before a bench of honorary magistrates, W. F. Reynolds, residing at Ballarat-street, Carlton, was summoned, on the information of the Registrar of the Pharmacy Board, under Section 3 of “The Sale and Use of Poisons Act,” for being other than a legally qualified medical practitioner or a registered pharmaceutical chemist, and not holding a certificate from the Pharmacy Board of Victoria that he was a fit and proper person to sell poisons, did sell to one Christopher Harrison a certain preparation of arsenic called Fuller's Vermin Destroyer. Mr. D. Wilkie appeared for the Pharmacy Board, but there was no appearance for the defendant. The following evidence was taken:—

Christopher Harrison deposed: I am a chemist, and carry on business at 53 Chapel-street, Prahran. I remember purchasing from the defendant a quantity of Fuller's Vermin Destroyer. At the time I bought it the defendant assured me that the preparation contained no poison. The receipt produced, and dated Melbourne, was written in my shop, and in my presence, on the 30th April. I sold to Mr. Jacob Tyfeld, of 56 Chapel-street, one of the packets purchased from the defendant. Early on the morning of the 1st of May Mr. Tyfeld sent word to me that his child, about two years old, had eaten some of the contents of the packet, and was then very ill. I recommended that Dr. Fetherstone should be at once sent for, and in the meantime I gave the child an emetic of ipecac, glycerine, which made it very sick, and it brought up a quantity of the paste it had swallowed. I was present, on the 11th May, when Mr. Tyfeld sealed up and handed to Mr. Shillinglaw the portion of the package he had not used. I identify the package now produced as the same. None of the packets purchased by me from the defendant were opened by me, and they are all labelled conspicuously non-poisonous.

Jacob Tyfeld sworn: I reside at 56 Chapel-street, Prahran. I remember purchasing from the last witness, on the 30th April, the packet produced; it was labelled Fuller's Non-Poisonous

Vermin Destroyer. I mixed a portion of it into a paste, and placed it about the floor of the shop. On the morning of the 1st May my attention was called by my wife to the child, who had picked up some of the stuff from the floor, and was eating it. The child shortly after became convulsed. I ran across to Mr. Harrison, who gave the child an emetic, which made it very sick. Shortly after Dr. Fetherstone arrived, and prescribed for the child. On the 11th May I handed to Mr. Shillinglaw, in the presence of the last witness, the packet now produced, which I sealed up and put my initials on. It is the unused portion of the packet purchased from Mr. Harrison. I now identify it as the package handed to Mr. Shillinglaw.

Harry Shillinglaw deposed: The information in this case is laid by me. I produce the Pharmaceutical Register and also the Medical Register. The name of the defendant does not appear therein. The defendant holds no certificate from the Pharmacy Board of Victoria that he is a fit and proper person to sell poisons. On the 14th May, in company with Mr. Harrison, I visited the shop of Mr. Jacob Tyfeld, 56 Chapel-street, Prahran, and received from him the package now produced, which he sealed up and initialed in my presence. I delivered this to Mr. Johnson for analysis.

To Mr. Wilkie: A number of cases for breaches of this section of the Poisons Act have been brought before this court during the last two years.

William Johnson, Government analyst, sworn: I received from Mr. Shillinglaw the packet now produced. It was sealed up at the time he handed it to me. I examined it, and found it was composed of flour and arsenic. About 20 per cent. of arsenic was present in the sample submitted to me.

Gerald Henry Fetherstone, a legally qualified medical practitioner, deposed that he was called in to attend the child of Mr. Tyfeld on the morning of the 1st of May. The child exhibited all the symptoms of arsenic poisoning.

This concluded the case for the prosecution.

In addressing the Bench, Mr. Wilkie said this was one of the worst cases that had ever come before the court, and he was instructed to press for the full penalty imposed by the Act. The evidence disclosed that the defendant had knowingly sold a most dangerous and deadly poison, which was described on the label as being "non-poisonous," and the Board, in the execution of a public duty, would ask the Bench to inflict such a penalty as would be a warning to persons guilty of such illegal practices.

After a short consultation, the Bench inflicted a fine of £10 and £6 6s. costs. Immediate execution was granted.

At the Berwick Police Court, before Mr. Frank Hare, P.M., and a bench of magistrates, J. C. Hodgson, a storekeeper, carrying on business at Pakenham, was charged, on the information of the registrar of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, with a breach of the 3rd section of the "Poisons Act." The evidence disclosed that, on the 13th February, the defendant sold to a butcher named Stone two bottles of laudanum, which were administered to his wife, who died from the effects. The defendant, who pleaded guilty to the charge, stated that he was unaware, in selling the poison, that he was committing an illegal act. Mr. Shillinglaw, who conducted the prosecution, stated that he was instructed by the board, under all the circumstances of the case, not to press for a heavy penalty. The defendant was fined 10s., and £5 5s. costs. A license has since been granted to Mr. Hodgson.

SHILLINGLAW v. AH HEN.

SECOND NISI PRIUS COURT.

(Before their Honours Mr. Justice Higinbotham, Mr. Justice Williams, and Mr. Justice Holroyd.) MR. McDERMOTT moved that this case be struck out of the list. It was an appeal against a decision made by the justices at Sandhurst in a prosecution by the registrar of the Pharmacy Board against Ah Hen of selling opium without his having previously obtained a certificate from the Pharmacy Board authorising him to do so. The justices had dismissed the charge against Ah Hen, and the complainant appealed. The decision of the justices was given on the 23rd October, 1884. On the 3rd November the complainant applied to the justices to state a case, and forwarded to them a draft case. The justices asked the defendant to allow them to peruse the draft, which he did, making alterations in it, and the justices then returned it to complainant's attorney. At the same time they wrote to him that if he had any alterations to suggest he should return the case to them. By section 150 of the Justices of the Peace Statute he was required to transmit the case to the Supreme Court within fourteen days after receiving it. The complainant's attorney did not transmit the case to the Supreme Court, but on the 22nd December wrote to the justices, suggesting an amendment in the case. This the justices at first refused to do, but ultimately they made the alteration, and in April the appellant's attorney transmitted the case to the Supreme Court. It was contended on behalf of the respondent that the case had been sent to the Court too late, and that it ought now to be struck out.

MR. G. A. SMYTH, who appeared for the appellant, contended that the case had not been finally settled till the alterations had been agreed to by the justices, and according to the decision of the Court in McCullum v. McVean, 3 V.R., 98, the fourteen days counted from the day on which the case was last received by the justices by the appellants after amendments made by them.

MR. JUSTICE HIGINBOTHAM said that after a case had been drawn by the justices and settled by them, it was not proper that one of the parties should go behind the back of the other, and endeavour to force the justices to alter it. The magistrates here had in the first instance dealt with the application in a proper manner, by refusing to alter the case, but by the importunity of

the appellant's attorney they were induced weakly to change their mind, and, yielding to his pertinacity, altered the case. It was the duty of the appellant's attorney, when the case was sent to him, either to return it to the justices at once for amendment, or else within fourteen days after he received it transmit it to this Court. Here he did nothing till long after the fourteen days had elapsed, and when he sent the case to the Court it was too late. The Court had no jurisdiction to deal with the matter, and the case must be struck out.

Mr. Justice Williams said that he wished to guard himself against admitting that M'Callum v. M'Vean was rightly decided. He would not go so far as to say that it was wrongly decided. There were circumstances here which suggested that it was very desirable that when the justices had attached their signatures to a case it should be considered final, and any application to amend it should be made to the Court, which would prevent any undesirable proceedings being taken behind the back of either party. At least, if he desired any amendment from the justices, the application should be made to have it done within the time limited for the transmission of the case after it was received by the appellant. To hold otherwise would be to enable him to take advantage of his own laches, and to prolong the time for transmitting the case. He thought if there was any power in the justices to alter the case after it had been settled and signed, the alteration should be made within the time mentioned in the section.

Mr. Justice Holroyd was also of opinion that the fourteen days allowed to the appellant for transmitting the appeal could not be extended by the appellant after that time had elapsed, by suggesting to the magistrate that he should make an alteration in the case.

Motion to strike out the case granted with costs.

HARRY WILLIAM SHEPPERSOON, who some time ago was committed for trial by the City Bench on a charge of having stolen letters from the Melbourne Post-office, addressed to Mr. Wm. Shepperson, the representative in Australia of Messrs. Borroughs, Wellcome and Co., manufacturing druggists, of England, has, since his incarceration, shown signs of insanity. He was sent with other prisoners for trial to the Supreme Court, but the sheriff sent him back on the ground that he was not fit to be tried, and advised the governor of the gaol to call two doctors to examine him. Drs. Neild and Wilmott accordingly visited the gaol, and found Shepperson thoroughly insane, and he will therefore be sent to an asylum.

Correspondence.

THE PHARMACY BOARD AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES' DISPENSARIES.

CONSIDERABLE correspondence has taken place in the Ballarat papers on this subject, from which we reprint the following letters:—

To the Editor of the Courier.

SIR,—Notwithstanding the *nom de plume* of "One Who Knows," he is only half informed, or he would not have written the statements which his letter in your yesterday's issue contains. He agrees with your paragraph *re* the status of apprentices already registered, but thinks "there should be no more of those apprentices," because there is no inducement held out to the managing dispensers to teach the craft. Well, I agree with him that there should be; but, surely, that is a matter for the apprentices, or their parents, and the dispensers to settle. If they are not taught properly they cannot pass the necessary examinations, and, as a matter of course, cannot become registered pharmacists. If they can pass those examinations, it follows that they have been properly taught, and should be allowed the same privileges as those who have been taught in private shop. The thing lies in a nutshell. The dispensary committee say to the board, make your examinations as stiff as you like, let them cover as much ground as you like, omit no test which a competent druggist should not be prepared to submit to, and then leave the field open for all who have served the necessary term, and can pass those examinations. The dispensaries ask for no favours. They want fair play and nothing more. With respect to the financial condition of the Ballarat Dispensary, if "One Who Knows" was as well acquainted as he thinks he is, he would know that the dispensary has to its credit as much money as will pay all its liabilities. He would also know that the Lodges would respond to the necessary levies for the purpose stated; and he would also know that the enormous profits of the business would more than justify the course suggested. If, as I suspect, the writer is in the same business himself, and that he fears the opening a shop in the East will injure his own trade, he may rest assured that, unless the law is altered as suggested, he will have a rival establishment opened in Bridge-street, and within a few yards of his own shop. If the bombast he speaks of was intended to frighten the Pharmacy Board, it would appear to have hit the mark, so far, at least, as one of the constituents of that august body is concerned.—Yours, &c.,

ONE WHO KNOWS BETTER.

To the Editor of the Courier.

SIR,—It may at this juncture be not uninteresting to "One Who Knows," and others interested in this question, to be told that the Pharmacy Board in carrying out the Act has nothing at all to do with, and could not recognise (even if they would), dispensary apprentices. Their duty is to see that all who would be registered have, in the first place, passed the preliminary examination, and, in the second, are articled only to registered pharmacists. Registration then follows as a right, and the

youth, as soon as he has passed successfully the prescribed studies, and reached twenty-one years of age, can, after he and his master have signed the 7th and 5th schedules of the Act, then go up for his final examination. By courtesy, if the Board in any way learns that a pharmacist who is managing a dispensary is about taking an apprentice, the attention of that pharmacist is immediately called to the above schedules, the Board fearing that unwittingly the words therein of "open shop" possibly may have escaped his attention. Now, whether these schedules should be amended or not is altogether another question, and one altogether outside of any duties the Board has. The managing bodies of these dispensaries assert they should, while I, on public grounds, and with some knowledge of the subject, venture to believe and affirm they could not; for apart from, and outside all special prescribed examinations, there is very very much that is essentially necessary to be learnt in the routine of an open shop that can neither be taught or learned in a dispensary pure and simple. Since writing above, my attention has been attracted to the letter of "One Who Knows Better." Well, I wish he did, not alone for his own sake, but more for the sake of dispensary apprentices, as such knowledge would certainly tend to make him more modest and infinitely less assertive.—Yours, &c.,

HENRY BRIND,
Member of the Board of Pharmacy.

THE QUARTERLY EXAMINATIONS OF THE PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA.

THE following candidates have passed at the quarterly examinations of the Pharmacy Board:—

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION, 1ST JUNE.

William James Donegan, Walhalla.

Ernest Arthur Walton, Fitzroy.

Henry B. Taylor, Kilmore.

Seven candidates presented themselves for this examination.

MATERIA MEDICA AND BOTANY, 2ND JUNE.

Benjamin James Wilkins, Geelong.

Francis Cathcart, Ballarat.

George William Towl, Ballarat.

ELEMENTARY AND PRACTICAL CHEMISTRY, 2ND JUNE.

William Henry Bateman, Ballarat.

Alfred George Curthoys, Ballarat.

Three candidates presented themselves for this examination.

MODIFIED EXAMINATION, 2ND JUNE.

Edward David Barry, Fitzroy.

PRACTICAL PHARMACY, MAJOR EXAMINATION (BEFORE THE WHOLE BOARD), 3RD AND 4TH JUNE.

John H. Niemann, Sale.

Samuel Arthur Ewing, Fitzroy.

Walter Charles Kernot, Geelong.

Horace Watson, St. Kilda.

Six candidates presented themselves.

APPOINTMENT OF THE QUEENSLAND PHARMACY BOARD.

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to appoint the undermentioned gentlemen to be members of the Pharmacy Board of Queensland, for the purposes of "*The Pharmacy Act of 1884*":—

J. Clement Ellison, M.B.,

James Hill, M.D.,

John K. Benson, M.D.,

Edward Taylor,

C. H. Fletcher Yeo,

James H. Fitzgibbon, and

Alfred W. Field.

Personalities.

A NEW pharmacy has been opened at Northcote by Mr. F. Eagles.

MR. KEMPTHORNE, of the New Zealand Drug Company, has been on a visit to Melbourne.

MR. C. R. BLACKETT has presented to the College of Pharmacy a number of valuable botanical plates.

MR. D. M. T. LEREW has disposed of his business at Warrnambool to Mr. Frank Uren, late of Ballarat.

A NEW pharmacy has been opened at Charlton by Mr. A. E. Bilton, late dispenser at the Police Hospital.

MR. R. FRANK KENNEDY, Warrnambool, has been appointed chemist to his Excellency the Governor.

MR. S. M. DALTON has presented to the museum of the Pharmaceutical Society some fine specimens of cinchona bark.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Tweeddale, of Maherst, and we understand that his business will shortly be sold by tender.

The vacancy at the Police Hospital, caused by the resignation of Mr. Bilton, has been filled by the appointment of Mr. E. J. Nicholson.

MR. SKOGLUND has been elected to the position of hon. secretary to the Victorian Chemists' Assistants' Association, *vice* Mr. Bilton.

THE Australian Pill Manufacturing Company have opened a factory in Melbourne. Their operations were formerly carried on in New Zealand.

We understand that Mr. Jackson, of Hamilton, has sold the business for many years past conducted by him at Hamilton to Mr. Phillips, who has been with him for a long time, and is well known in that district.

THE Victorian Chemists' Assistants' Association held their third social re-union, in the Manchester Unity Hall, on Friday evening, 29th May. There was a good attendance, notwithstanding the unpropitious state of the weather. The programme was carried out successfully by the M.C., Mr. Neale. At each interval several ladies and gentlemen contributed to the amusement by rendering piano solos, songs, and recitations. Dancing, to the strains of Bellini's Band, proved quite a pleasure; and the *finale*, which was played at two o'clock, terminated a most enjoyable evening.

AMONGST our most recent visitors is Mr. R. D. Dixon, representing the well known firm of Messrs. S. Maw, Son and Thompson, London, surgical instrument makers and druggists' sundriesmen. Mr. Dixon, who has himself been connected with pharmacy in all its branches both in England and on the Continent, expresses himself highly pleased with the progress made in the colonies, and which he considers reflects the highest credit on the promoters; and as a great number of colonial gentlemen contemplate visiting the old country during the ensuing year, he takes advantage of this opportunity of inviting them, on behalf of the firm, to inspect their business premises in Aldersgate-street, which, in extent and completeness, are unequalled in their particular branches.

Messrs. Lynch & Co., Aldersgate-street, London, established a permanent office in Melbourne a few months ago, where they have on view a complete set of samples of all their goods, and are constantly sending samples of novelties. Country druggists visiting Melbourne are invited to pay the office a visit; it adjoins that of Mr. Rivers Langton's, in Vaughan's Chambers, Queen-street. The goods supplied by Messrs. Lynch and Co. to these colonies have given universal satisfaction, and their India rubber goods stand the climate admirably. In addition to the general run of druggists' sundries and patent medicines, Messrs. Lynch and Co. offer perfume and soaps, they having purchased the well-established and well-known business of Messrs. Bentlow and Sons, which they carry on in conjunction with their own.

AMONGST the latest arrivals in Melbourne is Mr. W. Shepperson, representative of the firm of manufacturing chemists, Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., London. During the last two years Mr. Shepperson has travelled through India, Java, China, Phillipine Islands, Japan, &c., on behalf of this firm, and he states his trip has been crowned with success. Mr. Shepperson is introducing some entirely new preparations of the "Digestive Ferments," originally brought out by Dr. Fairchild, but now manufactured by Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. They comprise Peptonising Powders, Extractum Pancreatis, Pepsin in scales (easily taken), Pepsin and Pancreatic Tablets, an entirely new form for administering these medicines. We understand Mr. Shepperson intends visiting Tasmania and New Zealand next, and will embark from Auckland for San Francisco, en route for London.

WANTED, A Competent CHEMIST, to take management of branch establishment. References, age, and particulars to

S. H. HENSHALL, Seymour.

FOR SALE,—CHEMIST'S BUSINESS, old-established, large profits, in one of the best inland towns of New South Wales. Annual turnover, £3000, including Fancy Department. M.P.S., care of Secretary Pharmaceutical Society, Melbourne.

A CHEMIST, M.P.S., 30 years in the colony, has well-established Proprietary Remedies, always in large request, and from the extended sale of which a large income and independence can be realised. A full half-interest would be given to a business man with sufficient capital to properly and extensively advertise the medicines. References exchanged. For address apply to the Hon. Secretary Pharmaceutical Society, Swanston-street, Melbourne.



